
This is a reproduction of a library book that was digitized by Google as part of an ongoing effort to preserve the information in books and make it universally accessible.

Google™ books

<https://books.google.com>



F
2100
A2

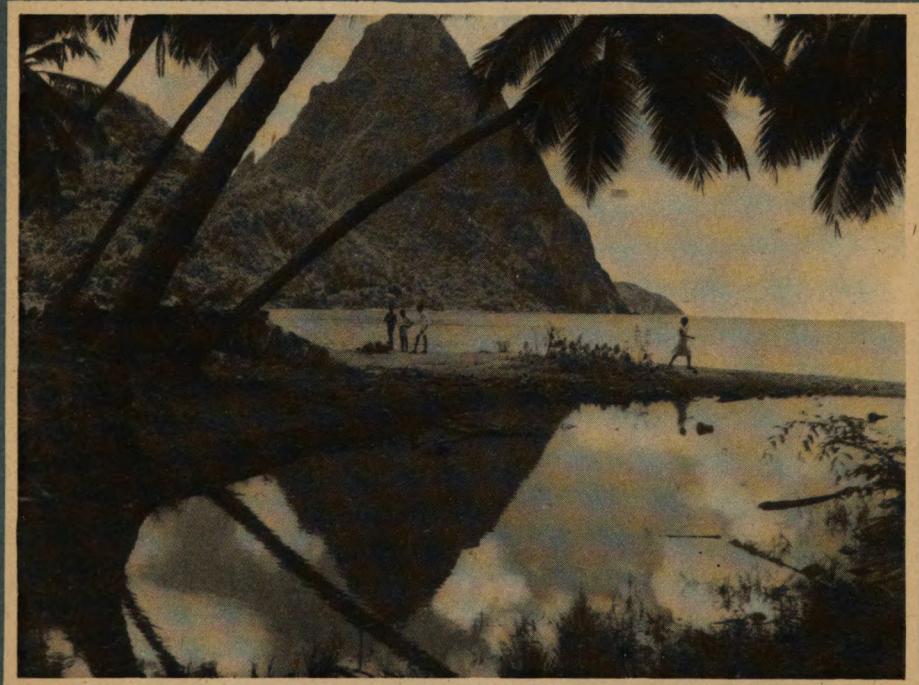


h1

B 1,690,363

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

St. Lucia
1948



LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

PRICE 2s. 0d. NET

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
LIBRARY
GENERAL LIBRARY

THE SERIES OF COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS
which was re-introduced for the year 1946 (after
suspension in 1940) is being continued with those
relating to 1948.

It is anticipated that the Colonies and Protectorates
for which 1948 Reports are being published will, with
some additions, be the same as for the previous year
(see list on cover page 3).



COLONIAL OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT ON
ST. LUCIA, B.W.I.
FOR THE YEAR
1948

Contents

	PAGE
PART I Review of 1948	3
PART II CHAPTER 1 Population	10
CHAPTER 2 Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation	11
CHAPTER 3 Public Finance and Taxation	15
CHAPTER 4 Currency and Banking	19
CHAPTER 5 Commerce	19
CHAPTER 6 Production	21
CHAPTER 7 Social Services	27
CHAPTER 8 Legislation	34
CHAPTER 9 Justice, Police and Prisons	35
CHAPTER 10 Public Utilities and Public Works	41
CHAPTER 11 Communications	43
CHAPTER 12 Miscellaneous	45
PART III CHAPTER 1 Geography and Climate	48
CHAPTER 2 History	49
CHAPTER 3 Administration	52
CHAPTER 4 Weights and Measures	54
CHAPTER 5 Newspapers and Periodicals	55
CHAPTER 6 Bibliography	55

[Contents continued overleaf]

LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1949

CONTENTS *continued*

APPENDICES

PAGE

F
2100
A2

APPENDIX I	Wages and Hours of Work	56
APPENDIX II	Summary of Labour Legislation	58
APPENDIX III	Comparative Statements of Revenue and Expenditure for the Period ended 31st December, 1947	59
APPENDIX IV	Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the Colony at 31st December, 1947	61
APPENDIX V	Income Tax, 1948	62

Crown Copyright Reserved

The cover illustration shows a view of Gros Piton

Pubs. of Herts
Sotteman
4-13-50
15205-

PART I

Review of 1948

THE year 1948 in St. Lucia was divided into two periods—the pre-fire period from 1st January to 19th June and the post-fire period from 20th June to the end of the year.

In the first period reasonable progress was being made, the Colony's Ten Year Plan of Development had been forwarded to the Secretary of State and was being implemented and there were hopes that, if energy was concentrated on production, the Colony might free itself from financial control by H.M. Treasury.

The tragedy of the night of 19th June, when four-fifths of Castries, including the heart of the town, was obliterated by one of the largest and most devastating fires ever experienced in the West Indies, is described in more detail in Part II, Chapter 12.

The immediate effect on the Colony was felt by the diversion of time, manpower and material to the tasks of rehabilitating on a temporary basis the life of the stricken town. The graver and less apparent effects will be felt in the decade following the fire as a result of the serious financial liability which a disaster of such magnitude must necessarily impose on the Colony, even allowing for the substantial and generous measure of assistance which His Majesty's Government has promised to provide.

The disaster necessarily focused attention on Castries. In the past the coaling trade and work on military buildings around Castries have attracted labour to the town at the expense of the more urgent and vital task of production on the land. Rebuilding will bring full employment in Castries on reconstruction work for the next three years, but may attract labour and retard agricultural advancement essential for the stabilisation of the Island's economy.

The following extracts from the Budget Address of His Honour J. M. Stow, Administrator, on 11th November, 1948, review the affairs of the Colony in 1948:

The Castries Fire of 19th–20th June with all its attendant tragedies naturally overshadows all other events.

Great efforts have been and are being made on the road to recovery from this disaster, many initial difficulties have been overcome, many temporary remedies have been found, but the plain fact must be faced that the fire has been a setback to the progress of the Colony and its effects will be felt for several years.

I do not mean by this that it is impossible to push forward the Colony's Ten Year Development Plan as energetically as possible or that progress cannot be made for the next few years. I mean that much energy and time which might otherwise be devoted to the task of development must necessarily be diverted to the task of rehabilitation.

Once again I must place on record the deep gratitude of this Colony for the most generous assistance received in its hour of distress. These gifts, spon-

taneously given, in many cases from neighbouring Colonies, will not be forgotten and will help to strengthen the bonds of friendship and unity in the Caribbean area.

The Fire Relief Fund Committee has acted energetically and I am most grateful for their labours and I am advised that an initial distribution of \$300,000 from the Fund will be made before Christmas.

We have received the heartening statement that His Majesty's Government is prepared to grant substantial aid towards the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Castries.

That assistance will, I am confident, be on a generous scale. The new Town Plan has been prepared expeditiously and expertly by Messrs. Rose and Lewis, and those officers have received the special commendation of the Secretary of State on their efforts. The advice which Mr. R. G. Gardner Medwin, Town Planning Adviser for Scotland and until recently Town Planning Adviser to the Comptroller, has tendered to the Secretary of State is, in short, that the plan is simple, imaginative and by no means extravagant. In the light of the new Plan revised estimates have been prepared and sent to London indicating the cost of reconstruction of public buildings, the reinstatement of public services, the installation of a sewerage scheme, the acquisition of land for the implementation of the Plan, compensation for pulling down existing walls where necessary and a housing scheme for the lower income groups in Castries. At present designs for the sewerage and water schemes are in course of preparation and a few days ago it was announced that the Colonial Development Corporation will undertake the work of detailed planning, co-ordination, supervision and control of the tasks of reconstruction, financed with the Government funds. That announcement is of great significance as it should mean that reconstruction will take place more quickly if entrusted to a large organisation. There is also the probability that the Corporation will be prepared to undertake work for private individuals.

Proposals for the provisions of loan funds at reasonable interest rates for commercial and private rebuilding have also been made, but I am not as yet in a position to make any statement on this subject.

I am aware that there is impatience at the delay before the real job of rebuilding Castries can start, but I think that it will be realised, on reflection, that the new Plan was prepared as swiftly as possible and that large estimates of reconstruction cannot be framed overnight. Above all, His Majesty's Government, without whose assistance little can be done, cannot be stampeded into decisions involving tens of thousands of pounds. I can, however, give this assurance now that so far as the Administration is concerned there will be no unnecessary delays at this end.

When the views of His Majesty's Government on the new Town Plan and the funds necessary for its general implementation have been received it will be possible to take the next step and to appoint a Commissioner for Reconstruction to take over the administrative control of rebuilding in the burnt-out area in accordance with whatever plan is adopted.

When reconstruction starts I am advised that priority must be given to the installation of the new Water Supply and Sewerage Schemes although these need not hold up other building operations.

I hope that if I have the privilege of addressing this Council at this time next year, there will be a report of the progress of reconstruction in Castries and that the outlines of a practical and worthy capital of St. Lucia will be taking shape.

FINANCE

During May a revision of the Ten Year Development Plan for the Colony was completed and copies of the Plan were forwarded to the Secretary of State. The Plan, recently distributed, envisages expenditure over the ten year period 1946-56 of about \$1,920,000 of Colonial Development and Welfare grant funds, \$1,617,600 of St. Lucia loan funds and a further \$772,800 from revenue or surplus balances.

This may sound ambitious but in reality a good proportion of the Colonial Development and Welfare funds have already been expended or hypothecated

since 1946 on approved schemes while other large amounts approved under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1940 have been carried forward as a charge into the Act of 1945. The amount of 'new' money—if it may be so termed—available for expenditure during the next eight years is not, therefore, large and is frankly not sufficient to bring about any overall change in the Island's economy.

It should, however, be stressed that we have benefited considerably during the past year from Colonial Development and Welfare funds given in a generous measure and from our own contributions to development.

In the field of Agriculture, the largest project has rightly been launched—I refer to the Vieux-Fort Interim Utilisation Scheme which received approval in June. The Scheme is financed by a Colonial Development and Welfare grant of \$148,449.60 and Colony loan funds which will be recoverable amounting to \$255,840.

The grant is designed to cover the cost of implements and non-recoverable expenditure and the Colony loan funds to cover the annual cropping and handling of tenants' produce.

Despite the handicap of the late start in operations 300 tenants are now in occupation of about 500 acres of cultivated land from which attractive crops of rice and other food crops are already beginning to be harvested. The Agricultural Department is also operating a central farm of some 500 acres mainly to provide a measure of wage employment. On this central farm are 220 acres of cotton. The maximum number of persons employed in a single day has been 238 though most of the male labour seeking employment has come from rural areas outside Vieux-Fort. The whole project is experimental but I feel that in the limited time at its disposal the Agricultural Department has done remarkably well and it is hoped that the results of this venture will warrant its expansion and the development of similar projects elsewhere in the Island. Apart from the Vieux-Fort Scheme good progress has been made with the cocoa propagation centre at Union.

In view of Grenada's misfortune in the discovery of witches' broom disease a careful inspection and regular periodic examination of the Colony's cocoa fields is being arranged and officers of the Agricultural Department are being sent to Grenada to inspect the incidence of the disease there.

In the Sketch Plan provision was made for assistance to the banana industry and recent enquiries made by a firm of fruit dealers suggest good possibilities of the revival of the banana export trade. The company has offered to purchase varieties other than the Gros Michel which is subject to Panama disease. Steps are now being taken to import from Guadeloupe the required supplies of suitable banana suckers and a delegation consisting of an agricultural officer and a planter has already proceeded to that island for inspection purposes.

Now I should like to turn to the Colony's financial situation, to prospects in 1949 and to features of the Budget presented to you to-day.

The revised estimates of revenue and expenditure for 1948 are \$1,100,548 and \$1,332,985 respectively as compared with original estimates for \$1,227,651 and \$1,246,844. Revised expenditure from surplus balances is \$70,000.

The short fall in revenue is due mainly to the fire owing to the decrease of revenue from excise duty, spirit licences, trade duty and petroleum licences. Similarly, the collection of income tax has been delayed. There has also been a reduction in the revenue from investments owing to a drop in the value of our securities.

Some of the increased expenditure over and above the Estimates in 1948 is due to the fire for printing matter, furniture and back pay for the Police Force. An increase in the cost of prison dietary and heavy supplementary votes for wharves, roads and dredging have also accounted for the increase, while late in the year some \$50,000 was contributed as a recoverable loan for the Vieux-Fort Interim Utilisation Scheme.

I regret to state that storm damage on 16th and 17th October was severe and it is estimated that over \$50,000 will be required to make the necessary repairs to our road system.

It is unlikely, therefore, that our surplus balance at the close of the current year will exceed \$300,000.00.

For the coming year revenue is estimated at \$1,527,871 and expenditure at \$1,487,400, showing a small surplus of \$40,471. This picture cannot, however, be regarded with any complacency as the Budget is expected to be balanced mainly by 'windfall' revenue in the form of import duties as a result of increased importations since the fire. On the other hand, we propose to make heavy increases to the establishment of the Police Force and to improve the conditions of teachers, clerical officers and other grades, without any immediate signs of an increase in productive wealth to compensate these contractual commitments.

It would in fact be most imprudent to budget for these increases were it not for the fact that it is realised from bitter experience that the Colony must have an efficient fire brigade and police force.

There must also be a civil service whose general conditions of service are adequate. Provision for the capital equipment required for the fire brigade and for a new combined police and fire station have been included in the estimate of the cost of reconstruction which it is hoped that His Majesty's Government will defray.

Should funds not be forthcoming from that source there will be a further commitment of some \$48,000 for equipment which would turn the slender balance on this year's Budget into a deficit.

Features of revenue for 1949 apart from the increased provision for customs duty are an increase of \$8,400 in respect of increased rates of harbour dues which it is proposed to introduce at an early date.

From the Post Office an increase in revenue of \$50,054 is estimated from new issues of stamps. The silver wedding issues will shortly be on sale and next year new issues representing the change from sterling to decimal currency will appear.

An increase in revenue of \$8,790 is expected from collection of rents at Vigie. This is offset by expenditure of \$5,760 under Miscellaneous Services in respect of the rental from the War Department. There will also be other expenditure in the form of maintenance charges.

The amount of \$54,848 is anticipated as revenue from the sale of produce under the Vieux-Fort Interim Utilisation Scheme.

In general, it is not considered appropriate in the period immediately following the fire to increase taxation.

During 1948 efforts were made to review the incidence of export duties and to make certain amendments. Certain duties are in need of adjustment and it is proposed, working on the basis of the information collected in 1948, to raise the matter again and to reach finality.

Turning to expenditure it will be noticed that the provision for outdoor relief has been increased from \$12,000 to \$15,000. This is due partly to the need for providing for the relief of sufferers from the 1938 landslide, the relief fund for which will now be transferred to the Colony's Reserve Account. It is also due to the increase in the number of destitute persons.

Provision is made for the new post of Assistant to the Crown Attorney. The duties of this officer will include the provision of assistance to the Crown Attorney in drafting and routine work. It seems certain that the legal problems which will arise as a result of the reconstruction of the town will add considerably to the work of the Crown Attorney and the post is, I am sure, justified as a temporary if not as a permanent, expedient.

Provision is made too for an additional Medical Officer. The attendance at dispensaries throughout the Colony has increased greatly in the last ten years with the result that an additional burden has been thrown on the establishment of medical officers which has not been increased correspondingly.

Increased provision of \$1,768 is made for medicines and dressings.

Under expenditure for the Police Department are reflected many of the recommendations made by Brigadier Mavrogordato in his recent report on the Force after the fire.

St. Lucia has learned the hard way that she must have an efficient police force and a separate, well-equipped fire brigade. To that end it is now intended to implement the majority of the recommendations made. The commitments are heavy but are inescapable if we are to achieve the standard required.

The titles of the two senior officers are changed to those of Superintendent

and Deputy Superintendent and the salary of the latter post and of the post of Assistant Superintendent are improved.

It is proposed to create a new post of Inspector and to create another post of Sub-Inspector, abolishing the existing post of Sergeant-Major.

The creation of the Inspectorate grade should make the Force generally more attractive from a promotion viewpoint and provide an incentive to the right type of educated man to join the Force.

The establishment of station sergeants and sergeants is to be increased by one each and finally it is proposed to establish an entirely separate Fire Brigade consisting of nine n.c.o.s and 21 men who will be exclusively employed on fire-fighting services. Only half the full provision for the Brigade is being made in the Estimates as it is unlikely that the new Fire Station (included in the application for funds from His Majesty's Government) will be ready until the latter half of the year. On the other hand, recruitment and training can start now, thus releasing several constables for ordinary duty. The rates of housing allowances are increased by 25 per cent and the pay of rural constables is also increased.

Provision is also made for courses of training for detectives and instructors, for the immediate training of the Force by the employment of instructors from larger colonies with St. Lucia's contribution to a Windward Islands Police Training Depot which it is proposed to establish on the Morne.

I am confident that with these improvements in 1949 the Superintendent of Police and his officers should be able to weld together a police force of which the Colony will be proud and in which members of the Force will be proud to serve.

Provision is made for a new police station at Dennery, the continuation of the jetty at Anse-la-Raye and the erection of a new Poor House in Castries at a cost of \$5,760.

Provision of \$5,000 has also been made for the capital improvement of the buildings on Rat Island. When the improvements have been made it should be possible to increase the rentals for the buildings.

There has been an increase in the provision for main and second class roads. In 1948 these votes were reduced but it has been proved that the economy was false and the provision existing in 1947 has been restored.

The increase in the cost of living bonus for officers in receipt of salaries of \$1,920 and over and the increased rates of bonus now payable to pensioners makes it necessary for the allocation of the sum of \$84,000, an increase of \$12,000.

EDUCATION

The school building programme, for so long a subject of discussion, will soon be started as funds to the amount of \$104,241.60 have been approved for the construction of new schools at Vide Bouteille, Monchy and Augier. These three schools form part of a bigger programme which has been prepared and which includes the replacement of some existing schools as well as the erection of new schools in new areas.

Unfortunately the transfer of St. Mary's College to Vigie must necessarily be deferred for some time until the buildings to which the College were to be transferred can be released.

During the year training schemes financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds have proceeded. Two teachers are now taking a course in House craft and Domestic Science training in Barbados. The names of three men have been submitted to fill vacancies in the Trinidad Government Training College. Applications have also been invited from women teachers to be trained at Spring Gardens Teacher Training College in Antigua.

Prospective teachers are now receiving academic training through the working of two Development and Welfare schemes. The Pupil Teachers are trained by Supervising Teachers, whilst other newcomers of suitable age and ability are admitted to the Secondary Schools for a three-year course before commencing to teach. Beginning in January, 1948, 24 such intending teachers commenced course at St. Mary's College and St. Joseph's Convent. Of the 14 boys seven were from Castries and seven from country schools. Seven girls were selected from town schools and three from country schools.

Under Education, provision has been made for an increase of \$13,000 for improved salaries for teachers. The salaries at present paid to teachers in St. Lucia are, I am satisfied, too low, and if progress is to be made in the field of education it is essential that the teachers should be adequately remunerated.

The provision which appears in the draft Estimates is only a token provision as the exact rates have not yet been decided. The matter is being referred in the first instance to a small Committee consisting of the Education Officer, Mr. Henry Belizaire and the Hon. H. E. Belmar, and their recommendations will then be referred to the Board of Education before a final decision is reached.

LABOUR

During the first part of the year a number of skilled and semi-skilled workers were recruited for Aruba and Curacao with the assistance of the Department. One hundred and eighty-eight workers were recruited for Curacao alone. Since the fire the employment situation has altered considerably and the demand for the construction of temporary buildings has absorbed most of the available skilled labour. Various projects such as the Vide Bouteille housing scheme, the dismantling of U.S. buildings at Vieux Fort, the widening of the Marchand Road, and the Vieux Fort Land Utilisation Scheme have also absorbed a number of the unemployed unskilled labour in the Colony.

The result is that there is probably fuller employment than there has been at this time of the year for several seasons. The failure of the Surinam emigration scheme which might otherwise have had serious consequences has, therefore, to a large extent been offset by opportunities offering or in prospect at home. Labour will have a full part to play in the coming year when construction starts and the Colony has a right to expect and I am sure will receive full value from labour in the coming year.

MEDICAL

So far as development is concerned in the field of social services, two important grants of \$42,640 and \$48,600 respectively have been approved for the provision of Health outposts at Anse-la-Rayé, Richfond, Mon Repos and Choiseul and for recurrent expenditure on health centres. The latter grant is of special importance now that a Medical Officer of Health has been appointed (also under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme) and the Castries Health Centre is operating in full swing. A day nursery is a welcome feature of the amenities at the Centre.

PUBLIC WORKS AND TELEPHONE

In fact we have about as much on our plate now as the limited resources of the Colony can tackle. It may not be out of place here to review some of the development projects which have been taking place in the past year. The Vigie Airport has been given a seal coat and various other drainage improvements have been made at a cost of \$48,000.

When the barrack block in line with the airfield has been demolished St. Lucia will possess one of the finest airfields in the British West Indies and certainly one of the closest to any capital town.

After much tedious negotiation it has been agreed that the first part of the new bonded warehouse shall be constructed at a cost of \$103,200. The funds are being found by loan from the Joint Colonial Fund at three per cent. and the necessary legislation will come before this House at an early date.

Progress on the Dennery-Vieux Fort Road has not been as good as we had hoped but the major part of the work between Micoud and Dennery has been completed and the contractors have every intention of completing the contract this dry season.

First steps had already been taken before the fire towards solving some of the housing problems in Castries by the development of the Vide Bouteille housing scheme. Although work has so far been financed from Colony funds the scheme will shortly be submitted as a whole to the Secretary of State and will involve Colonial Development and Welfare grant funds. The main roads in this area are being constructed as quickly as possible and I hope that it will not be long

before lots can be let out to those who require them and the Government housing programme in that area can be undertaken.

Finally, I would refer to the proposal to provide electricity from Soufrière for the towns and villages down to Vieux Fort with a view not only to providing a much-needed amenity but also the means of providing power for minor industries and the proposed copra mill. Estimates of this scheme have recently been prepared and forwarded to the Secretary of State and I hope in the New Year it will be possible to finance the scheme from Colony loan funds.

So much for a brief review of the development programme. It is interesting to note that Colonial Development and Welfare grants approved in 1948 alone have amounted to no less than \$604,800. It has been obvious to me from many sources that the public has not had enough information about these various developmental activities, many of which are of real and lasting importance to the community. I hope, however, that in this brief survey I have shown that we are not standing still and that it is not intended to let the reconstruction of Castries unduly interfere with our plans.

In my Budget Address last year I made an appeal to the Civil Service to give of their best in the year 1948. I am satisfied that there has been a good response to that appeal and I am grateful for the effort made. In particular I would like to commend the way in which several departments in the immediate period after the fire settled down in temporary or improvised accommodation for the normal transaction of business.

During 1949 we hope to install new printing machinery, and the loss of our own facilities accounts for the somewhat undistinguished appearance of the Estimates now before you. I should, however, like to give special commendation this year to the Treasurer and his staff for their part in preparing these Estimates at an earlier date than usual in spite of the general dislocation as a result of the fire and the absence of any printing facilities of our own.

The year 1949 will be of the utmost importance to St. Lucia and I would most earnestly ask for unity in the task before us. Differing views we may have, differing ideologies we may possess, differing policies we may advocate, but fundamentally all of us desire to see the early reconstruction of the city and the progress and development of the Colony. Let us, therefore, close our ranks and go forward together into the New Year with confidence that, with God's help and unity of purpose, we can pass through from the shadows of discomfiture and emerge into the sunlight of brighter and more prosperous days.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

RELIABLE statistics are not yet available. Such results of the 1946 Census as are at present available show the population of St. Lucia was 69,091, comprising 32,824 males and 36,367 females.

The number of inhabitants per square mile based on the 1948 Report on Vital Statistics is 350. The estimated natural increase for 1948 is given as 1,385. A comparison of the natural increase over the period 1945-48 is as follows:

	1945	1946	1947	1948
Males . . .	865	788	827	733
Females . . .	795	825	772	652
	<hr/> 1,660	<hr/> 1,613	<hr/> 1,599	<hr/> 1,385

The comparison of the numbers of immigrants and emigrants is as follows:

	Immigrants	Emigrants	Increase or Decrease
1945	2,885	3,233	— 348
1946	3,797	4,015	— 218
1947	4,650	3,988	+ 662
1948	6,797	7,829	— 1,032

The most populous section of the island is the Castries District, where there is a resident population of over 20,000. Choiseul, the smallest district situated at the south of the island, is estimated to support a population of over 7,000 on its 9.47 square miles. The population is mainly concentrated around the coastal towns and villages of Castries, Anse-la-Raye, Canaries, Soufrière, Choiseul, Laborie, Vieux Fort, Micoud, Denville and Gros-Islet.

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

OCCUPATIONS AND WAGES

The economy of St. Lucia is predominantly agricultural and it is, indeed, primarily devoted to the production of sugar cane. Other products include cocoa, coconuts and to a lesser extent mixed farm products. The Colony produces no minerals of sufficient quantity to justify commercial exploitation. There is no major industrial activity apart from the processing of sugar. The island produces insufficient timber to satisfy even domestic demands. Charcoal-burning is done to supply the demands for fuel both locally and in some of the neighbouring Colonies. The island contains numerous bays and inlets: this facilitates inshore fishing. A natural deep-water harbour at Castries is ideal for shipping.

The majority of the population are engaged in agriculture. Unemployment is a perennial problem, especially in the urban areas of the Colony. Projects occasioned by the necessity for Empire or regional defence have alleviated unemployment from time to time, as for example the construction of the bases by the U.S. Government during the last world war. Road-building and other Government work are responsible for absorbing some surplus labour.

Gainfully employed persons in St. Lucia, according to a census taken in 1946, were 31,891, of which 50.18 per cent were engaged in agriculture; 0.21 per cent in quarrying and mining; 3.27 per cent in fishing; 0.69 per cent in forestry; 14.89 per cent in manufacturing and repair; 9.67 per cent in construction; 1.75 per cent in transport and communication; 4.09 per cent in commerce and finance. The remaining 17.25 per cent were divided among the public and professional services, personal service and other occupations. Those figures also serve to indicate the distribution of occupation in St. Lucia in 1948, since no major change has occurred since 1946. Actual figures are not available.

The Castries fire which destroyed the main commercial and residential section of the town, provided employment on an average for 1,100 persons per fortnight in the second half of the year, one-third of whom were artisans.

The statutory minimum wage for agricultural labour in the Colony, effective since March, 1947, continued to be 3s. and 2s. 3d. per day of eight hours for an able-bodied man and woman respectively. The wages in respect of juveniles, as fixed by the same Order-in-Council in March, 1947, were from 1s. 6d. and 1s. 3½d. per day for boys and girls of 14 to 16 years respectively, and 2s. and 1s. 7d. for boys and girls of 16 to 18 years respectively.

As a result of bargaining by the trade union with the sugar manufacturers, a joint agreement was reached on the minimum wage on the sugar estates which was fixed at 3s. 6d. per day.

Work on the sugar estates is done on the task basis, however, and the average weekly earnings are as set out in Appendix I, which gives a schedule of wages paid in 1948.

COST OF LIVING

The Labour Department compiles and publishes monthly a cost-of-living index figure for working-class families in the Colony. It is difficult to state accurately the increases in the cost of living to overseas officials since the war, but the list (below) of pre-war prices of certain main commodities compared with those obtaining in 1948 should serve to indicate the rise in commodity prices.

COMPARATIVE PRICES OF FOOD COMMODITIES IN ST. LUCIA

Article	Price 1939	Price 1948
Flour . . .	2½d. per lb.	7d. per lb.
Rice . . .	1¾d. " "	2 lb. for 7½d. (4d. per lb.)
Cereals . . .	1s. " pkt.	2s. 11d. per pkt.
Beans . . .	5d. " lb.	1s. 2½d. " lb.
Sugar . . .	2½d. " "	4d. " "
Milk . . .	3d. " quart	8d. " quart
Fish (fresh) . . .	5d. " lb.	7d. " lb.
" (tinned) . . .	7d. " "	2s. 10d. " "
Pork (fresh) . . .	8d. " "	10d. " "
Meat (fresh) . . .	7d. " "	1s. " "
" (tinned) . . .	8d. " "	1s. 7½d. " "
Bacon . . .	2s. " "	3s. 4d. " "
Ham . . .	1s. 4d. " "	3s. 9d. " "
Butter . . .	2s. 8d. " "	3s. 5d. " "
Eggs . . .	9d. " doz.	2s. " doz.
Cheese . . .	2s. " lb.	3s. 4d. " lb.
Coffee . . .	10d. " "	1s. 9½d. " "
Tea . . .	4s. 4d. " "	5s. 6d. " "
Potatoes . . .	2½d. " "	4d. " "
Vegetables (green) . . .	3d. " "	6d. " "
" (other) . . .	2d. " "	5d. " "
Tobacco . . .	2s. 8d. " "	4s. 2d. " "
Cigarettes . . .	10d. " pkt. of 20.	1s. 3d. " pkt. of 20
Beer . . .	8d. " pint	1s. 5½d. " pint

The following table shows the cost-of-living figures from September, 1939, to December, 1948, as compared with the basic month (August, 1939) taken as 100.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1939 . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	102	104	105	
1940 . . .	106	107	108	109	110	110	110	111	111	113	115	118
1941 . . .	119	120	122	123	125	126	126	128	130	131	133	135
1942 . . .	136	137	138	140	145	147	150	155	158	162	165	168
1943 . . .	169	171	173	174	175	176	178	179	179	180	180	180
1944 . . .	181	181	181	182	182	183	183	183	183	183	183	183
1945 . . .	171	172	172	173	172	171	170	170	170	170	166	166
1946 . . .	166	179	179	183	182	185	184	184	194	194	194	199
1947 . . .	201	201	206	206	218	220	222	222	222	222	222	227
1948 . . .	228	228	228	228	230	230	230	228	230	229	231	233

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The staff of the Labour Department during the year was as follows:
Labour Commissioner.

Assistant Labour Commissioner (acting as Labour and Factory Inspector under the Labour Ordinance, No. 17 of 1938 and the Factories Ordinance, No. 8 of 1943)

Third-class clerk.

Stenotypist.

Messenger.

The post of Labour Commissioner and Secretary of Labour was established under the Labour Ordinance, No. 17 of 1938, which outlined his principal duties as follows:

- (i) to supervise and review regularly the various forms of employment of labour which exist in the Colony;
- (ii) to ensure the due enforcement of Labour Statutes in the Colony;
- (iii) to bring to the attention of the Governor every matter or thing which is likely to be prejudicial to the welfare of any class of labour, or cause any disagreement between labourers and their employers;
- (iv) to make recommendations to the Governor from time to time for the promoting and safeguarding of the general welfare of labourers.

In practice all disputes which are not settled by negotiations between employer and worker come to the notice of the Labour Department. Encouragement and assistance are given to settle these amicably without recourse to the Courts. The Department also functions as an Employment Bureau and in addition collects information in respect of wages, hours of employment and working conditions generally in the Colony, compiles statistics relating to the retail prices of articles used by the working classes, and constructs the official cost-of-living index figures.

With the enactment of the Factories Regulations and the proclamation of the Factories Ordinance which came into effect at the beginning of the year, the Labour Commissioner became *ex officio* the Chief Factory Inspector, while his assistant was appointed a Factory Inspector to ensure the provisions of the Ordinance relating to safety and welfare of factory workers were carried out.

Advice and guidance when necessary are tendered to trade unions and employers organisations to promote and maintain amicable industrial relations and develop sound organisation.

The Labour Commissioner served on the following Boards and Committees:

The Labour Advisory Board, as Liaison Officer.

The Rent Assessment Board.

The Resettlement Committee for Ex-Servicemen and women, as Secretary and Liaison Officer.

The Labour Welfare Fund Committee, as Chairman.

The Prices Control Board.

TRADE UNIONS

Two trade unions, registered under the Trade Union Ordinance, were in existence during the year: one was the St. Lucia Workers' Co-operative

Union, the members of which comprise all classes of workers. The artisans of Castries formed themselves into an affiliated branch of the union. A meeting of bakers was held with a view to forming themselves into another branch, but interest waned and no branch was formed. The other, a specialised union restricted to dock-workers and seamen, is the St. Lucia Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Union.

The St. Lucia Workers' Co-operative Union has built its own headquarters in Castries.

At the close of the year the St. Lucia Workers' Co-operative Union had 6,000 members and the St. Lucia Seamen and Waterfront Union 570.

An agreement between the St. Lucia Co-operative Union and the sugar manufacturers was reached before the beginning of the crop season and, as a result, unskilled labour on the estates received a 16½ per cent increase over the statutory minimum wages. As a result of negotiations the following improvements in working conditions were secured:

- (a) Factory workers who were employed for a minimum of 234 days in any calendar year would receive one week's leave with pay;
- (b) lunch rooms were provided for the use of factory hands;
- (c) Suitable sanitary arrangements were provided.

Wage increases for dock-workers representing an increase of 20 per cent over the previous year were effected by negotiations between the Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Union and the shipping agents. This union also concluded satisfactory negotiations with Messrs. Cable & Wireless Ltd., of London for the employment of a St. Lucian crew on the C.S. *Electra*. Forty-one men, comprising the entire crew, with the exception of the licensed personnel, were employed at wage rates and conditions mutually agreed upon. Through the efforts of the Seamen's Union a Dutch shipping firm in the Netherlands West Indies engaged 48 St. Lucia seamen.

During the year 156 complaints and minor disputes were reported to the Labour Department, arising mainly out of non-payment of wages and differences of opinion between employers and servants in respect of the contract of employment. Advice and assistance to resolve these differences amicably was given in each case.

The year 1948 was notable for an absence of any major disputes. Relations generally between employers and workers have been good.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

The following legislation was enacted during the year:

The Sugar Cess (Administration) Regulations, Statutory Rules and Orders, No. 1 of 1948.

The Factory Regulations, Statutory Rules and Orders, No. 8 of 1948.

These Regulations were made under the Sugar Export Cess Ordinance, No. 5 of 1947, and provide for the establishment of a Price Stabilisation Fund Committee and a Rehabilitation Fund Committee and outline the powers and procedure of the respective committees.

An Ordinance to amend the Sugar Export Cess Ordinance 1947, the Sugar Export Cess (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 1 of 1948, was published in the Official Gazette of 28th February, 1948. The object of this amendment is to enable changes in the amount of the cess on sugar to be made

from year to year, and to permit of the discontinuance of the levy at some future date.

The Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Ordinance, No. 4 of 1948, came into operation on 3rd April, 1948. This Ordinance grants to local trade unions immunity from actions of tort and allows peaceful picketing.

No legislation exists for the provision of sickness and old-age benefits.

A summary of the labour legislation existing in the Colony appears as Appendix II.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

Exact figures for revenue and expenditure for the year 1948 are not yet available but the comparative statement of revenue and expenditure collected over a period of years, ending with 1947, aided by a comprehensive exposition of the financial position of the Colony given in the Budget Address in Part I of this Report, explains the Colony's financial position.

REVENUE

Total revenue from local sources for the year 1947 amounted to \$1,216,857. Grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act totalled \$140,362. Colonial Development and Welfare Revenue dropped below the peak figure of \$507,778 reached in 1946 and of \$482,957 in 1945. Local revenue shows hardly any increase over 1946, there being no substantial rise in excise and import duties. The description of the main heads of taxation and the yield of each is as follows :

	<i>Taxation Head</i>						
	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Excise Duty on } Rum	120,024	116,438	114,940	88,123	85,017	91,012	65,616
Sugar	16,435	40,560	42,451	9,129	12,457	18,528	18,600
Trade Duty on Spirits	42,806	42,019	41,280	37,891	38,376	40,924	28,737
Stamp Duties	5,227	4,829	4,929	4,070	3,902	3,561	3,792
Succession Duty	9,202	4,910	3,835	5,928	12,307	3,604	1,110
Income Tax	154,594	132,485	109,276	101,150	138,388	116,524	46,824
Rural House Tax	4,104	4,044	4,281	3,614	4,392	3,336	3,081

EXPENDITURE

Local expenditure for the year 1947 amounted to \$1,428,131, excluding expenditure on Colonial Development and Welfare schemes, the largest items being Public Works, Medical Services, Post-War Services and Education. Expenditure on Colonial Development and Welfare schemes, though estimated to reach \$543,370, was \$133,580 only.

The statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 1947, which follows, shows a total of assets of \$1,222,700 and a surplus of assets over liabilities of \$461,067.*

* Details of Liabilities and Assets will be found in Appendix IV.

STATEMENT OF THE PUBLIC DEBT AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1947

Description of Debt or Loan	Amount of Original Loan	When Incurred and Purpose	Amount Outstanding	Rate of Interest	Provision for Repayment and Legal Authority	Date Payable	Amount of Stock	Amount of Stocking Fund
Debt Reduction Loan	\$ 345,501.30	1926—Repaying Advances made by Crown Agents	345,501.30	\$ 5%	Ordinance No. 10/1925	1951	\$ 242,364.40	\$ 256,509.76
Loan Conversion	\$ 79,903.76	1938—For payment of 5% local loan. Ordinance No. 62/1916 Revision. 5% Loan for construction of Baron Wing. Ordinance No. 3/1917 Purchase Baron Asylum. Ordinance 73/1918 Revision.	79,903.76	3½%	Ordinance No. 24/1938	1959	27,573.28	28,391.56
Land Settlement Loan, C.D. & W. Scheme No. D497	\$ 115,200.00	1945—For the purchase of Barbados Settlement Co. Land in the Vieux Fort area.	115,200.00	Loan free of interest in the first instance. Terms of Repayment to be considered later. No Statutory Authority				
Black Bay Estate Acquisition Loan, C.D. & W. Scheme No. D376	\$ 47,136.00	1945—For the purchase of certain lands belonging to the Barbados Settlement Co.	47,136.00	\$587,741.06			\$269,937.86	\$284,901.32

LIABILITIES	\$	ASSETS	\$
Special Funds . . .	591,959.38	Cash . . .	30,225.90
Deposits . . .	116,523.54	Joint Colonial Fund . . .	51,942.12
Castries Town Board . . .	245.12	Post Office . . .	32,871.52
Towns and Villages . . .	3,105.40	Castries Town Board . . .	12,029.06
Intercolonial Accounts . . .	24,783.38	Advances . . .	292,542.36
Drafts and Remittances . . .	25,015.44	Investments . . .	784,806.46
General Revenue . . .		Towns and Villages . . .	4,666.88
Balance Account . . .	5,067.96	Bank Deposits . . .	15,615.92
Surplus . . .	456,000.00		
	\$1,222,700.22		\$1,222,700.22

CUSTOMS TARIFF

Import Duties

Imports may be classified under five heads:

Class 1. Food, drink, and tobacco on which import duty is payable at *ad valorem* and specific rates;

Class 2. Raw materials and unmanufactured articles on which import duty is payable at *ad valorem* and specific rates;

Class 3. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured on which import duty is payable at *ad valorem* and specific rates;

Class 4. Animals not for food at specific rates;

Class 5. Bullion and specie are exempted.

The principal items imported under Class 1 are beer and stout, grain (rice, flour, cornmeal and other cereals), preserves, milk, pickled meats, hams and bacon, tea, coffee, tobacco, cigarettes and double fats, butter and lard. These come mainly from Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, British Guiana and Brazil.

Items imported under Class 2 are mainly leather and lumber and come from Canada and the United States of America.

Those under Class 3 are wearing apparel, cotton piece-goods, hardware, machinery, medicines, metals, paints and colours, and other manufactures of wood and timber. These imports come from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Those under Class 4 come mainly from Canada and include horses and asses for breeding purposes.

Under Class 5 bullion and specie are imported from Trinidad.

The cost of goods for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of *ad valorem* duty payable is calculated on the price charged for the goods by the vendor and verified by the genuine invoice of such goods. The calculation is based upon all charges on such goods up to the time of their arrival in the Colony; if the goods have been procured otherwise than by bona-fide purchase the *ad valorem* duty is calculated on the actual market value of such goods in the Colony at the time the goods are removed from bond.

Articles imported by or for the use of His Majesty's Naval or Military Forces, the Police Force, Girl Guide and Boy Scout Association, the Colonial Government, the Governor or the Administrator, and municipal authorities, and several other articles listed under Ordinance No. 8 of 1940 for the purpose of encouraging trade and commerce, local agriculture and scientific investigation, are exempted from payment of import duty.

**

A preference of approximately one-third is in many cases allowed on goods of Empire origin. The margin of preference is fixed by agreement.

The Governor in Council may remit or authorise the exemption of import duty or refund in whole or in part any customs duty payable or paid by any person or on any goods not specified in the table of exemptions in the 1940 Ordinance.

EXPORT DUTIES

Export duties are collected on exports from the Colony of which the main are charcoal, cocoa, coconuts and copra, firewood, fruit, honey, lime products and sugar.

Export prices are for the purposes of the collection of duty fixed by an Export Prices Committee under the Chairmanship of the Collector of Customs. For all items except firewood and charcoal the duty is on a sliding scale.

A cess is collected on lime products.

EXCISE DUTY

As may have been seen from an examination of the main heads of revenue and the yields therefrom, excise duty on rum maintains a special place. This duty amounts to 6s. 6d. per proof gallon charged on spirits made in the Colony.

The excise duty on sugar is of far less value and is levied at the rate of \$27.40 per ton of sugar manufactured and consumed in the Colony with a rebate of \$7.72 on dark sugar and \$9.54 on clear sugar. These rebates are in the nature of a subsidy.

The Governor in Council is empowered to remit the whole or any part of the duty payable if he is satisfied that it would be just and equitable to do so.

INCOME TAX

The yield from income tax paid in 1948 in respect of the assessment of 1947, is given in Appendix V together with the rates of tax chargeable under Ordinance No. 8 of 1948. The yield from income tax was \$177,894 in 1948 as compared with \$154,594 in 1947 and \$132,486 in 1946.

ESTATE DUTY

Where death occurs in the Colony the person accountable for succession duty is required within three months after the death to deliver to the Treasurer a declaration of the value of the estate of the deceased. The period, where death occurs out of the Colony, is six months.

The Treasurer may under certain circumstances extend the period for a further three months or six months in the respective cases referred to and any further delays may be granted on application to the Judge.

Succession duty is collected on all estates in excess of \$480, but half rate only is payable in respect of successions passing to the wife of the deceased, the mother or the lawful son or daughter.

RURAL HOUSE TAX

Taxes on houses situated outside the limits of any town or village are assessed on the annual rental value, and range from \$1.80 on a house the

annual rental value of which is not less than \$28.80 and does not exceed \$36.00, to \$4.80 on a house of a rental value of \$60.00 and not exceeding \$72.00, and 7 per cent on a house the rental value of which is over \$96.00 per annum.

The assessment is made by the Tax Officer and the tax may be paid into the Treasury or to a Rural House Tax Bailiff. Payment can be enforced in a summary manner before the inferior Courts.

STAMP DUTY

Stamp duties are collected on most commercial instruments at a rate fixed under the Stamp Duty Ordinance.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

The currency used is quoted in British West Indian dollars; one dollar equals 4s. 2d. and £1 sterling equals \$4.80. The current coin is in £ s. d.

During the year 1948 note circulation in St. Lucia was as follows: Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) Notes \$145,870, Trinidad Government Notes \$504,140. The amount of coin in circulation is unknown.

The accounts of the Government and other public accounts were previously kept in sterling, but a change was made in January, 1948, to dollars. The accounts of Barclays Bank and the St. Lucia Co-operative Bank Ltd. were previously kept in dollars.

There are three banks operating in the Colony: Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.), the St. Lucia Co-operative Bank Ltd., and the Government Savings Bank of which branches exist at Soufrière, Vieux Fort, Dennery, Gros Islet and Anse-la-Rayé and Micoud.

The St. Lucia Co-operative Bank Ltd. was established in 1937 with an authorised capital of \$150,000. The total number of depositors in 1948 was 1,021 holding \$559,964. The bank which does a fair business in small short-term loans declared a dividend of 10 per cent in 1948, and as the sale of shares during the year mounted from 83,117 to 100,032, the Directors deemed it necessary to limit the issue of shares to new applicants to a maximum of 50.

Chapter 5: Commerce

The effect of the Castries fire on commerce was naturally considerable as business houses suffered tremendously in that stocks of imported commodities were in the main totally destroyed. Fortunately, only a negligible quantity of agricultural products were in warehouses awaiting shipment at the time of the fire. This chapter cannot boast accurate figures for 1948 as most of the records kept by the Customs Department relating to imports and exports were lost.

The volume of imports after the fire naturally showed a large increase owing to the necessity for replacing goods. In fact, most merchants were obliged to restock entirely after having set up temporary sheds. The quantity of relief cargoes which arrived after the fire also added considerably to the Colony's imports. Moreover, it is anticipated that 1948 and subsequent years will show a steady rise in the entry of goods and building material from abroad.

The imports and exports of St. Lucia in pre-war years may have been greater, but this was due entirely to the coal trade which was itself a re-export trade. Today, in spite of abnormalities, export figures are a more reliable index of prosperity since the export trade is almost entirely agricultural. It is estimated that the value of exports in 1948 amounted to \$1,116,832 compared with \$606,986 in 1938.

The estimated total value of imports in 1948 was \$4,117,853 compared with \$3,052,027 in 1947, and \$1,200,000 in 1938.

Most of the imports are articles wholly or mainly manufactured and food, drink and tobacco. Wheaten flour from Canada is the largest single item of imported food, valued at \$337,266 in 1948, while textiles lead in manufactured articles, being valued at \$446,384.

Imports from the United Kingdom increased substantially especially items such as machinery and motor vehicles.

Imports from hard currency areas were also increased due to replacements made necessary by the fire.

The percentage of the Colony's imports and exports from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world from 1939 to 1947 were:

IMPORTS

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945*	1946	1947
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom	36.77	42.99	42.42	38.3	32.62	16.87	15.79	22.75	21.8
Canada							42.43	40.10	37.2
Other parts of the British Empire	30.94	36.7	48.3	44.56	48.3	58.37	22.97	16.60	14.6
United States of America	17.59	14.91	6.15	5.09	10.39	17.99	16.69	18.98	25.0
Other Foreign Countries	15.70	5.90	2.78	12.05	8.69	6.77	2.12	1.57	1.4

EXPORTS

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945*	1946	1947
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom	42.5	56.68	63.38	61.37	32.65	14.83	52	39.3	37
Canada	31.37	15.87	11.27	4.43	0.11	0.01	5	0.23	—
Rest of British Empire	19.38	21.08	15.97	30.06	50.87	49.34	42	54.6	35
United States of America	6.70	4.02	9.37	4.14	0.05	0.01	1	2.9	27
Other Foreign Countries	0.50	0.35	0.01	—	16.32	35.81	—	3.1	1

*The percentages for 1945 are approximate.

Values of imports according to countries of origin:

	1945	1946	1947
	\$	\$	\$
United Kingdom	310,084	548,654	668,011
Canada	833,332	966,787	1,135,512
Other parts of British Empire	451,305	400,330	448,257
United States	327,936	457,560	764,140
Other Foreign Countries	41,640	37,863	36,107
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$1,964,299	\$2,411,194	\$3,052,027

Figures for 1948 are not yet available.

During 1948 the Colony was represented at the following Conferences:

(a) The British West Indies Import and Exchange Control Conference held at Barbados under the chairmanship of Mr. O. A. Spencer, Economic Adviser to the Government of British Guiana.

(b) The Working Committee of the Oils and Fats Conference held at Barbados under the chairmanship of Professor Beasley, Economic Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies, to review the working of the 1947 Agreement with special reference to the allocation of raw materials, ancillary materials and processed products as between the several Colonies participating in the Agreement.

Chapter 6: Production

There is no machinery available locally for the collection of statistics dealing with the entire range of domestic producing. In the circumstances, export figures as shown by Customs Returns must necessarily be taken as an indication of the trend of production.

AGRICULTURE

The amounts and values of the principal agricultural exports for the years 1947 and 1948 are shown below together with those for the year 1938 which afford a comparison with pre-war production.

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS

		Quantities	1948		1947		1938	
			Value	\$	Value	\$	Value	\$
Sugar . . .	tons	6,568	659,031		4,615	477,305	7,806	325,012
Cocoa . . .	cwt.	5,006	214,429		7,726	289,584	6,198	39,993
Copra . . .	lb.	2,297,276	199,302		—	—	—	—
Molasses . . .	gals.	160,891	29,918		10	33	150,278	14,812
Honey . . .	lb.	148,722	16,574		—	13,479	52,400	2,400
Lime Oil (Distilled) . . .	lb.	2,972	11,494		—	—	—	—
Nutmegs . . .	lb.	20,392	10,788		—	13,071	—	2,400
Coconuts . . .	no.	430,805	10,347		—	—	—	—
Lime Juice (Raw) . . .	gals.	12,764	8,620		—	—	—	—
Wood and Timber (Unmanufactured) . . .	lb.	—	3,128		—	—	—	—
Mace . . .	lb.	2,538	2,625		—	—	—	—
Lime Oil (Hand Pressed) . . .	lb.	175	1,400		—	—	—	—
Bananas . . .	bchs.	1,853	1,907		1,511	1,459	100,726	65,126
Cotton (Sea Island) . . .	lb.	1,700	826		—	—	—	—
Oranges . . .	no.	17,183	417		—	—	—	—
Limes, green . . .	brls.	77	392		—	—	—	—
Shingles . . .	no.	5,510	275		—	—	—	—
Grapefruit . . .	no.	4,258	271		—	—	—	—
Ginger . . .	lb.	172	16		—	—	—	—
Lime Products . . .	—	—	—		—	11,232	—	69,259
Rum . . .	gals.	—	—		13,431	8,085	10,251	5,692
Coconut Products . . .	—	—	—		—	306,760	—	53,792
Bay Oil and Bay Rum . . .	gals.	—	—		1,821	1,420	1,514	1,440
Vegetables . . .	—	—	—		—	5,577	—	3,600
Fresh Fruit and Products . . .	—	—	—		—	20,966	—	19,680

The total value of agricultural exports has continued to rise in recent years. This has been due largely to a rise in prices for the main products: sugar, cacao and coconut products. Production is still far from pre-war levels. The following review of the principal individual crops will indicate that there is little reason to expect any substantial increase in wealth from the existing units of production. There is a growing feeling that these circumstances demand a large contribution of fresh capital and great local effort to promote agricultural expansion and the introduction of new industries.

Sugar

Sugar continues to represent the most important industry in the Colony, yet it occupies only 2,083 acres of land. Production which has never risen to the pre-war export quota of 10,000 tons has fallen in recent years to less than 5,000 tons. With the decline of alternative employment which existed during the war years, and the consequent return of labour to agricultural enterprises, it has been possible to re-expand sugar production. This trend has been encouraged by the short-term guarantee of purchase by the Ministry of Supply and circumstances have permitted local sugar interests to undertake desirable measures of rehabilitation in the factories. A further stimulus to production is also being provided by a more liberal programme of manuring, involving the use of phosphatic fertilisers which laboratory analysis of local sugar-cane soils has shown to be essential for increased yields. Another encouraging feature during the period under review has been the introduction of heavy equipment for mechanising the cultivation of sugar cane. These measures are all confidently expected to increase the output of sugar, but it is recognised that expansion is necessarily limited by the configuration of the lands involved. Substantial increases in sugar can only be achieved by the introduction of new capital and additional factory equipment for the revival of sugar-cane growing on other lands.

Coconut Products

Coconut products continue to hold second place in the list of agricultural exports from the Colony. Production has only slightly increased. An agreement which emerged from the Second Conference on Oils and Fats of the British Caribbean region provides for the exportable surplus of coconut products to be delivered to Barbados. Small local factories are engaged in the manufacture of edible oil, but their efficiency and economy of operation cannot be compared with suitable modern equipment. Proposals by the local Coconut Producers Association are, however, well in hand to erect a central copra mill with which is likely to be associated additional pilot plants for the processing of dairy and pork products.

Cocoa

With the recent improvement in prices for cocoa beans increased attention has been given to the maintenance of the fields, resulting in some increase in yield. During 1948 the price of cocoa had risen to unprecedented levels, but at the close of the year there was a decline in price and uncertainty regarding disposal of the usual quota on the United States market.

Apart from the recession in price further anxiety was felt over the discovery in the island of Grenada of "Witches' Broom" disease. Examination of local stands has so far revealed no incidence of the disease.

Considerable progress has been made with the establishment of a local cocoa propagation centre provided for under Colonial Development and Welfare Project No. D800. This scheme is designed to permit the distribution of some 24,000 plants annually, sufficient for the establishment of 60 acres per annum. The material which is being propagated is derived from tested selections made by the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, and is being obtained through the Intermediate Cacao Nursery established for this purpose in the neighbouring island of St. Vincent. By the end of 1948, the initial propagator unit of the local centre had been completed and the first consignment of selected propagating material was being budded into seedlings obtained from local selections which had been germinated under temporary arrangement as early as December, 1947, that is, within three months of the approval of the scheme. The stocks now being budded will be planted in the permanent nursery site during the forthcoming wet season (July–November) from which material will be obtained for subsequent rooting by well-tried methods. Distribution of new plants to farmers is likely to begin during the wet season of 1950.

Lime Products

Once an important industry, this has suffered a continued decline until exports are now negligible. This has been due to the death of the trees and at the present time few local farmers show any interest in this industry.

Bananas

Despite the revival of the pre-war shipping service between West Indies and Canada, the export trade in bananas has not yet been restored. During the year, however, some interest has been shown by overseas firms, who hope to inaugurate an export trade with the United Kingdom or Europe.

Cotton

In an effort to increase local production and to make economic use of the residue of the lands vacated by the Barbados Settlement Company, the local Administration has given attention to the early introduction of Sea Island cotton-growing. During the past ten years only small areas of Sea Island cotton have occasionally been grown. In the 1946–47 season no cotton was grown. Largely through the stimulus afforded by the importation of tractors and other mechanical implements, the area cultivated in this crop rose to 286 acres during 1948. The strain being grown is the Montserrat Sea Island type. Progress was also made during the year with the establishment of improvised cotton-ginning facilities.

LAND SETTLEMENT

Other islands in the British West Indies have gone ahead of St. Lucia in attempting to establish permanent settlements of small-holdings. One attempt initiated in the 1930's had involved the opening up of the interior

lands in the high rainfall area where it was felt that development might be based upon the products of bananas and citrus. The erodible nature of this land combined with its comparative inaccessibility as well as the catastrophic landslides during the year 1938 discouraged this attempt. With the release of the lands formerly occupied by the Barbados Settlement Company whose activities were interrupted by the establishment of the U.S. Base, the opportunity presented itself for the Government to make some attempt to revive some basic economy to support the district against the day when alternative employment declined. Consideration is being given to the revival of sugar production in this district, and Sea Island cotton production is being encouraged. A central farm area is being operated to afford wage employment. Priority is, however, being given to the production of the essential food requirements of the workers, the ultimate aim being the settlement of a contented peasantry on residential holdings where they may gradually acquire self-sufficiency through a system of mixed farming. To this end 364 tenants were placed in occupation of approximately 500 acres of land, involving the cultivation of 150 acres of rice and other food crops, most of which has been reserved for family consumption. During the first six months one of the most promising tenants, who previously had had no facilities for cultivation, was able to get \$412.80 on sales besides his earnings from wage employment and a substantial reserve of food crops for his home.

This scheme was made possible by a Colonial Development and Welfare grant No. D947 which provided for the purchase of mechanical equipment, other capital requirements and essential supervisory staff. Advances are also provided from local funds to cover working credit for the operation of the central farm and to afford facilities for producers which are regarded as essentially recoverable expenditure.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

There is little improvement to report; a few improved breeds of horses, donkeys, bulls, sheep, pigs and goats were imported mainly for stud purposes.

Continued interest is being taken in dairying and butter-making. There has also been some success in the local manufacture of cheese on a small scale. During the year the first electric milker was imported and has since been used with beneficial results.

FORESTRY

The Colony is able to record an advance in the organisation of a forest protection service, silviculture and the systematic exploitation of timber. The amount of timber extracted from the Crown lands under the supervision of the Forestry Division amounted to 504,022 board feet during the year 1948. It is felt that with the increase in forestry staff and financial provision under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, local forests can make a contribution towards local timber requirements, especially needed for the rehabilitation of Castries.

Extraction of timber is mainly organised at peasant industry level,

involving the use of large hand-saws and the transportation of the wood mainly by head through difficult country. A few small wood-working plants now absorb a proportion of the material so extracted, the greater part of which finds its way into the building trade.

FISHING

The encouragement of the fishing industry continues under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme D608. A Junior Fishing Officer was appointed in 1946. During 1948 an experimental whaler was built as an example to improve existing whaler types. This whaler is also used for fishing investigations. The construction of five beach sheds was completed with the help of a Colonial Development and Welfare grant D688—these sheds placed at fishing villages serve as shelters and market-places where fish may be sold under more sanitary conditions.

CO-OPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

The promotion of Rochdale Societies in St. Lucia was reviewed in the Colony's Revised Sketch Development Plan in 1948. Previously consideration had been given to the encouragement and supervision of the co-operative societies and a nexus with the Marketing Organisation was brought about by the appointment of a Marketing Officer. The plan for a Marketing Organisation formulating a marketing policy alongside co-operative development as an extension service of the Department of Agriculture received the approval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies supported by a Colonial Development and Welfare grant in 1946—Scheme D960 (Marketing Organisation) and Scheme D690A (Co-operative Societies Officer and Staff).

Before Government assistance was given to societies there were signs among certain groups of a desire for co-operation. These groups organised study clubs or undertook small co-operative ventures. The appointment of the Co-operative Societies Officer carried the following duties: to promote, consolidate and render thoroughly efficient the existing co-operative organisations, to extend such organisations, to show peasants the advantage of co-operative organisation and registration, and to supervise the working of the co-operative law.

The Co-operative Officer, who received initial training in Jamaica, went to pursue further studies in conformity with the scheme in the United Kingdom in 1947 and returned in 1948 having completed the first Training Course for Colonial Co-operative Staff in England. This course which was initiated by the Colonial Office was designed primarily to promote the study of co-operative organisation, legislation and administration.

On 31st December, 1948, there were four societies registered under the Co-operative Societies Ordinance—one consumers', two credit unions (credit societies) and one transport society—all of limited liability.

Legislation

The Co-operative Societies Ordinance, No. 17 of 1946, was proclaimed law on 17th June, 1948, together with the Co-operative Societies Regulations (S. R. & O. of 11th June, 1948). This legislation is based

largely upon the model ordinance and regulations submitted by the Secretary of State for the Colonies modified in the light of local conditions. The St. Lucia Regulations are unique in colonial co-operative legislation in that they make it compulsory for each society to set up an education committee to promote co-operative education amongst its members.

Consumers' Societies

The only consumers' society has been registered; it suffered a setback in trade as both its shops were destroyed in the Castries fire; fortunately, its capital net loss was small as the stocks were insured. Temporary premises were quickly built and trading recommenced a month after the shops were destroyed. The society was handicapped through lack of trained staff.

Credit Societies

The credit societies are based upon the Credit Union system of North America and now being widely adopted and adapted in other Caribbean territories. Most of the capital is held in shares subscribed in instalments, which encourages thrift, and shares are withdrawable if due notice is given. There were negligible cases of withdrawals. Loans to members are made only for productive or provident purposes and in 1948 50 per cent of these loans were for agricultural purposes. The Co-operative Law makes provision for loans to societies by Government, but no Government credit was used in 1948. Two societies, not yet registered, exist at Saltibus and Dennery.

Marketing and Producers' Societies

The idea of co-operative marketing was discussed with various groups of producers throughout the island, and great caution exercised to ensure that the future organisations would be based upon sound economic foundations. One society (not yet registered) at Laborie operated a co-operative copra kiln. The members pool their crop of coconuts which is made into copra and sold to the local Coconut Growers' Association. A Bee-Keepers' Co-operative Association was started in October with the object of pooling and exporting honey abroad; it is anticipated that the 1949 crop, instead of being sold to local merchants, will be disposed of co-operatively. Preliminary work was done among peasants, rice-growers, and fishermen, and some cane-farmers in the Dennery area built a "co-operative" road to enable easier disposal of their sugar-cane crop, which was estimated to be 1,400 tons.

Transport Societies

A Transport Society was registered at the end of 1948. This society was formed to obtain a better and cheaper bus service between Vigie and Castries, and consequently an order for a passenger-bus chassis was placed in the United Kingdom.

Co-Partnership Societies

The majority of artisans and tradesmen of Castries suffered the loss of their shops in the Castries fire. In July, woodworkers, shoemakers, gold-

smiths and tailors met to consider how they could resume trade, and decided to form co-partnership societies for acquiring and managing workshops on a co-operative basis. Their main obstacles were the difficulty of obtaining suitable sites and capital for equipment. The Government is considering whether it can help financially.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

Owing to the destruction of the Education Department records in the Castries fire, it is not possible to publish figures relating to the increased efforts in education. The figures given in this chapter deal mainly with 1947.

In 1947 there were 45 primary schools and two secondary schools receiving grants-in-aid from the Government. Of the 45 primary schools, three are Anglican, three are Methodist and 39 Roman Catholic. The primary schools had an attendance roll of 10,997 and an average attendance of 6,752.

Primary Education

The sum of \$109,598 was expended from Colony funds on primary education during 1947, as against an estimated \$140,333 voted for 1948; the rise in 1948 is mainly due to the revision of the salary scales of teachers. These figures exclude the expenses of the Education Department, the cost of which is borne partly from local funds and partly by a grant from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

In 1947 there were 361 primary school teachers, of whom 15 were trained, 99 held local certificates for competency, 56 were uncertificated, and 191 were pupil teachers. Training facilities for teachers included training outside the Colony, local training for intending teachers who follow a three-year course of study at a secondary school before taking up teaching posts in the primary schools, training of pupil teachers by supervising teachers paid from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, and internal vacation courses for certificated teachers. In 1947 the sum of \$20,913 was expended from Colonial Development and Welfare funds for these purposes and for departmental expenses.

In 1948 two teachers began a six-month housecraft training course in Barbados, and arrangements were made to send three men students and three women students for training at colleges in Trinidad and Antigua respectively. One teacher remained after war service in the United Kingdom to follow a three-year training course.

There are no Government schools in the Colony; but in 1948 the Secretary of State for the Colonies approved a scheme for the erection of three primary school buildings. Owing to the pre-occupation of the Public Works Department and local artisans with the conversion or construction of emergency housing, the building of the new schools was delayed until 1949. The three schools are to be sited at Vide Bouteille (to

meet the immediate need of a new Government housing area outside Castries), at Monchy in the north, and at Augier, in the south, adjacent to the Black Bay Land Settlement.

Secondary Education

A Roman Catholic Boys' Secondary School with a roll of 170 receives an annual grant-in-aid of \$7,200. A convent conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny receives an annual grant of \$2,160. This school in 1947 had on roll 156 boys and girls of whom 57 were girls between the ages of 11 and 18. The secondary schools together had seven men and 12 women on the staff; of the women four were part-time teachers. During 1947 the Government supported 22 scholars at these schools; in addition 11 pupils held Castries Town Board Scholarships.

In 1947 the staffing of the Boys' Secondary School was strengthened by the arrival of three Presentation Brothers from the Presentation Order, Cork, Ireland. The three Brothers, one of whom became Headmaster, are university graduates, who also hold education diplomas. The curriculum was redrawn to include elementary sciences, a grant of \$4,800 being provided for laboratory equipment, and extra-curricular activities were also extended. It was planned in 1948 to remove St. Mary's College to a former military barrack at Vigie, and to use the present premises for day and evening technical education. The need for emergency housing after the fire made it necessary to postpone this plan.

Visual Education

Before the fire the Education Department using a projector presented by the British Council and films obtained on loan from the Council gave shows to schools, clubs and adult groups in Castries and two other areas where electricity was available. More recently generators have been used to make this service available in many other parts of the island. Developments of this type are also being made through the use of film-strip projectors. Musical notation and sight reading was taught in all primary schools with help of the Director of Music.

Adult Education

The appointment in 1948 of a Resident Tutor of the Extra Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies, with headquarters in St. Lucia, was a welcome development that promises well for the future. In Castries two voluntary groups conduct adult evening classes mainly to combat illiteracy. Similar groups may be found in outlying districts.

Higher Education

In 1947 the Colony awarded two Higher Education Scholarships valued at \$1,200 per annum, and in 1948 one Island Scholarship valued at \$1,680 per annum. The St. Lucia Island and Higher Education Scholarships are established by statute and are tenable at universities for a period not exceeding six years. In 1947 there were 14 holders of these scholarships at universities abroad.

Board of Education

A Board of Education consisting of 12 members appointed by Government meets to advise on educational matters under the chairmanship of the Education Officer. During 1948 an Assistant Inspector of Schools was appointed.

HEALTH SERVICES

The Medical Services are administered by a Senior Medical Officer, one resident surgeon who is also Medical Superintendent of the Mental Asylum, and six district medical officers.

Figures showing the prevalence of the principal groups of diseases for 1948 are given below. Statistics of mortality for the principal groups of diseases for 1948 are not yet available, but principal causes of deaths in 1947 were:

Senility	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	196
Congenital Debility (children under one year)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	166
Malaria	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	143
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (children under 2 years of age)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	71
Heart Disease	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	69

	Malaria	Yaws	Tubercu-losis	Influenza	Enteric Fever	Worm Diseases	Gonorrhœa	Syphilis	Ophthalmia of the Newborn
Victoria Hospital	85	2	11	2	20	22	25	47	1
District I	2,220	44	21	3	7	1,263	446	183	27
District II	1,770	126	16	230	9	1,831	275	155	40
District IIIA	639	8	12	20	—	626	51	32	3
District IIIB	130	657	24	124	—	2,492	133	56	1
District IV	1,502	31	14	146	3	728	194	207	22
District V	1,093	184	51	325	4	800	238	91	2
TOTALS	7,354	1,050	138	848	23	7,740	1,337	724	95
Compared with 1947	+29	+118	+35	+277	-13	+2,678	+528	-95	+40

N.B.: Cases from Victoria Hospital are *not* included in the totals since these are already recorded in the District returns.

Treatment is available for in-patients at four hospitals:

Victoria Hospital	.	.	.	100 beds
Soufrière	„	„	„	20 „
Vieux Fort	„	„	„	22 „
Denney	„	„	„	12 „

Out-patients receive treatment at 12 dispensaries which are visited once each week by the district medical officer.

In addition to these outposts, the dispensaries at Castries, Soufrière, Vieux Fort and Denney are attended daily by the district medical officers.

District nurses, who are all qualified midwives, are stationed at each of the dispensaries and are available for home deliveries.

Castries Health Centre

This was built with a Colonial Development and Welfare grant. During the first two and a half months of the year this centre functioned mainly as the Castries Dispensary with the addition of the mothers' section of the Maternal and Child Health Services and the dental clinics.

The centre now provides office accommodation for the Senior Medical Officer, the Medical Officer of Health, Sanitation Department and Public Health Engineering Unit on the upper floor. The lower floor of the main building is occupied by:

(a) The Castries Dispensary with one large examination and treatment room.

The dispensary proper where medicines are dispensed for all Government prescriptions in the Castries area.

The dressing station attended by the district nurse.

This purely curative section is not properly a part of the Health Centre and it occupies space that is urgently required for other services. Moreover the dressing of ulcers, a large number of them of a chronic nature, tends to discourage some persons from attending other sections of the building; 14,860 attendances were recorded at the dispensary for 1948. The three district medical officers in the Castries area are responsible for two mornings each week at this dispensary.

(b) The Maternal and Child Health Clinics occupy two rooms and are divided into the mothers' section and ante-natal clinic and the infants' section which has taken the place of the old child welfare clinic. The lady health visitor gives regular instruction to the mothers at these clinics both collectively in the form of a regular progressive course of instruction, and individually to the mothers who have special problems.

Nine hundred and forty-seven mothers attended the mothers' section, of whom 819 had blood tests for syphilis; 14.5 per cent of these were positive.

Two-hundred and eighty infants have been registered for the infants' section, and during the nine months 881 attendances were recorded at the clinic.

(c) The V.D. clinics now function on four days of each week—two male and two female. One female day is arranged so as to synchronise with the mothers' section of the Maternal and Child Health Clinics so that the expectant mother may attend both clinics at one visit to the centre. This is a great convenience to those mothers who require treatment for venereal diseases.

The samples of blood for Khan tests are now taken at the Health Centre on two mornings so that patients no longer need to walk to the Victoria Hospital for blood tests. Routine Khan tests are done for all mothers attending the ante-natal clinics. The Medical Officer of Health is responsible for the V.D. clinics.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS

Syphilis Cases

	Sero-positive Primary	Secondary	Latent	Late	Congenital	Total No. of Cases	Total No. of Injections
Male	50	112	55	55	4	276	2,251
Female	17	114	60	60	4	255	2,500

(d) The Dental Clinic held on two afternoons of each week provided dental services for 3,915 persons.

Health Education

A start has been made with the health education programme and for this purpose Saturday mornings have been reserved in order that school teachers, who form the most important link in this chain, should be able to attend. The subjects of lectures given included health education; functions of a health centre; infectious diseases transmitted by barbers and hair dressers; food handling; first aid; infant care; V.D.

In-service training for the staff at the Health Centre, mainly public health nurses and sanitary inspectors, has also been undertaken, and subjects of special interest to the staff are dealt with at staff conferences held on Monday mornings.

Day Nursery

A small building in Castries originally intended for nurses' quarters has now been fully equipped for use as a day nursery. On 21st June as a result of the Castries Fire a number of infants were discovered among the refugees at St. Mary's College and these, together with others from the neighbouring houses, formed the nucleus of what now is the day nursery. Twenty infants are kept and fed daily at this nursery, and a number of others for whom there is no room receive regular feeds of milk.

The thanks of this community are here recorded for the very generous assistance of the Red Cross and other agencies in stocking the nursery with clothing and equipment. The nursery is also being used for teaching purposes in connection with the classes on infant care. It is now used as a home for children whose mothers have to work and can make no provision for them at their homes; a teaching centre on child care for the senior girls from the primary schools and also for the mothers attending clinics; and a feeding centre for undernourished infants, who are recommended for extra milk by a doctor.

Aged and Infirm

The aged and infirm are cared for at Malgretoute Institution in Soufrière which can accommodate 100 persons. The Castries Home also looks after 35 aged and infirm persons in the Castries area. The Leper Home now has seven patients only, as 19 were sent to British Guiana for treatment. Excellent results have been obtained both in British Guiana and at Malgretoute with the new Sulphone drugs.

The Mental Hospital at La Toc had a daily average of 130 persons during 1948.

Public Health

The Sanitation Department is staffed by one Senior Sanitary Inspector and seven district sanitary inspectors, three of whom hold the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

With the assistance of Development and Welfare funds considerable improvements have been made in the sanitation of towns and villages; improved latrines and the introduction of the borehole latrines for rural areas have been the main objectives of this scheme.

Drainage work has been done in the Vigie-Vide Bouteille areas by the Public Health Engineering Unit. This area is important not only because of the airport at Vigie, but also because of the housing schemes for the densely populated Castries area. The drains laid in the area are all lined with pre-cast concrete inverts.

HOUSING

During the year under review, the personnel of the Central Housing Authority, whose term of service ended on 25th April, 1948, were all reappointed.

Buildings Bye-Law

The draft Buildings Bye-Law for the town of Castries drawn up by the Central Housing Authority on the advice of the Town Planning Adviser to the Development and Welfare Organisation, West Indies, was passed by the Castries Town Board and approved by the Governor.

Vide Bouteille Housing Scheme

In accordance with the proposed town planning scheme for Castries and surroundings, an area of Vide Bouteille estate containing approximately 35 acres was compulsorily acquired by Government for the establishment of a housing scheme. This scheme is designed to relieve the slum areas of Castries and to make house plots available for the greater part of the former residents in the burnt area of Castries, over 50 per cent of whom cannot be rehoused in the new town plan. The sum of \$35,145 from the surplus balances of the Colony has been made available for the purchase of land, the clearing of the site and the establishment of main roads and access roads in the area. The proposed scheme makes provision for about 350 house plots, sites for shops, school building and a playing field, with an overall density of nine houses to the acre. The scheme has been divided into two sections, one providing for building sites and the other providing for a small Government housing scheme of 40 houses, 20 of which are to be constructed in timber and 20 in concrete or hollow clay bricks.

Development of Vigie Peninsula

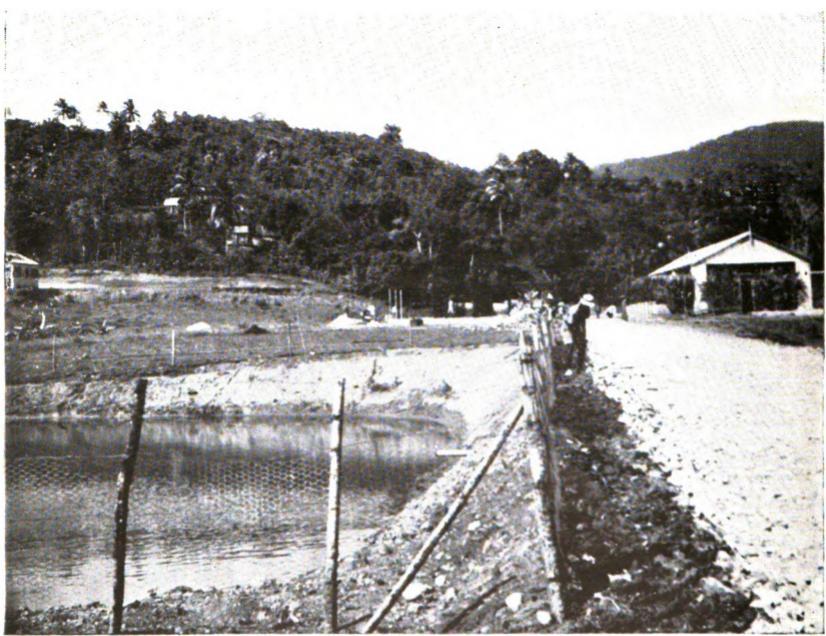
The Government of St. Lucia has leased the Vigie Peninsula from the War Office for a period of 30 years with the option of a renewal for another



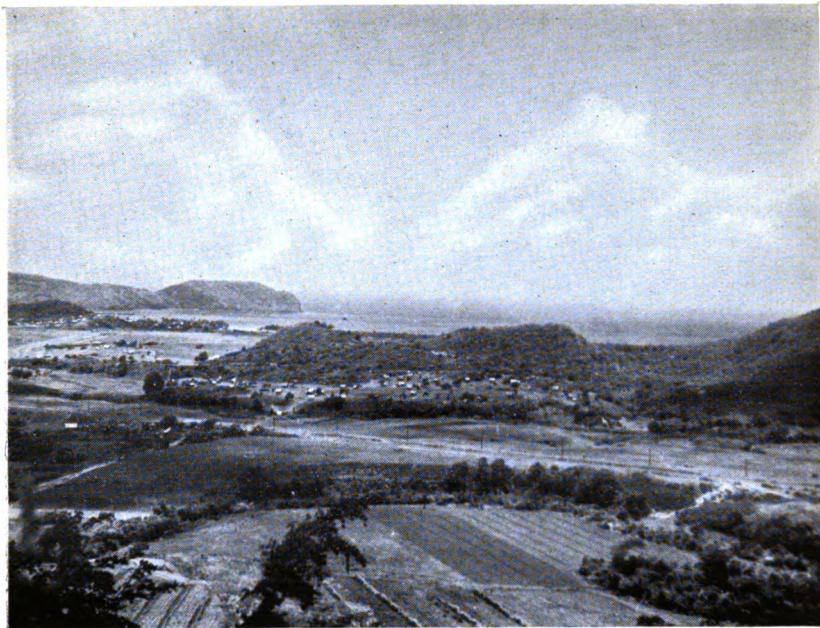
GRATING MANIOC (CASSAVA)



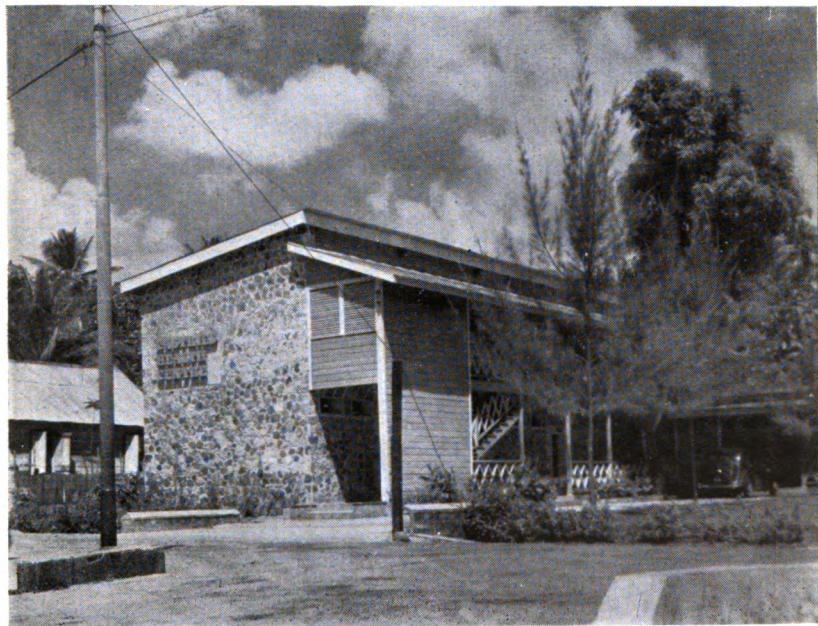
VIEUX FORT LAND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME



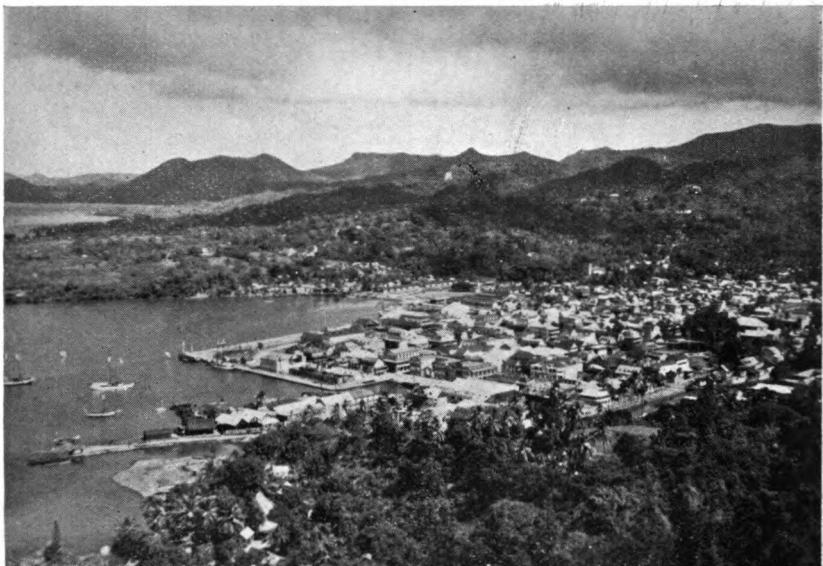
THE FISH POND AT UNION EXPERIMENTAL STATION
Department of Agriculture



CENTRAL FARM AND ADJOINING LARGE SCALE
CULTIVATION AT VIEUX FORT

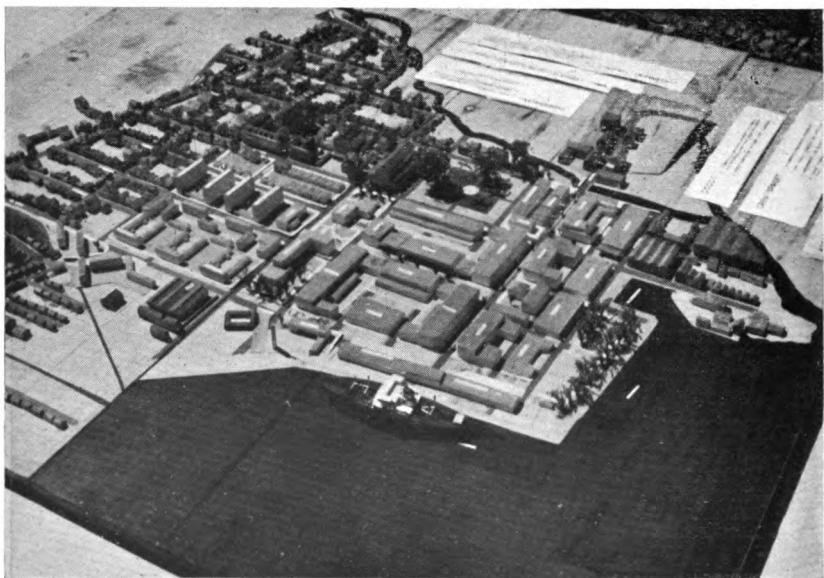


CASTRIES HEALTH CENTRE



With acknowledgments to Oliver Cadet

CASTRIES TOWN AND HARBOUR BEFORE THE FIRE



With acknowledgments to Curtis L. N. Knight

CASTRIES: SCALE MODEL SHOWING NEW PLANNING PROPOSALS

This photograph, which appeared in the Report for 1947, has been reproduced again because of its relevance to the discussions on the Castries plan in this Report. Photographs of the destruction caused by the fire are shown in the Report for 1947

30 years. It is intended to develop Vigie as a housing area principally for the middle and highest income groups and the Central Housing Authority has been asked to control and administer the area. All available housing space at Vigie is at present occupied by the victims of the recent fire. Pending the taking over of control by the Central Authority the peninsula is under the supervision of a Provisional Commissioner. The Authority has nevertheless prepared a scheme for the area which was approved by the Governor-in-Council on 30th September.

Castries Fire and Development

Approximately 32 acres of the town of Castries comprising the main commercial and warehouse sections were destroyed by fire on the night of 19th-20th June. Approximately 522 residential buildings were destroyed, involving 809 families comprising nearly 2,500 persons.

Immediately after the fire joint-meetings between the chairman and the secretary of the Housing Authority in St. Vincent and the St. Lucia authority were held to make short- and long-term plans for the burnt area. At a joint-meeting between the Castries Town Board and the Authority on 24th June recommendations were subsequently confirmed by the two bodies and forwarded to Government. As a measure of relief temporary structures for commercial, warehouse and office use, were permitted within the burnt area of the town. It was also unanimously recommended by both bodies that a new town planning scheme for the whole town should be prepared as soon as possible, laying down new proposals for traffic and street improvements, zoning, re-housing and including considerations for adequate water and sewerage systems. It was also recommended that the new plan should be produced within a minimum period of time in order that return to normal conditions might be delayed as little as possible, and that it should include proposals for boundaries of greater Castries as some of the worst slum areas were just outside the present town limits. It was also agreed that no permanent buildings were to be allowed within the burnt area until a scheme was approved. It was also recommended that the town planning scheme should also include the immediate development of Vide Bouteille as a housing area and as soon as the plan was approved its execution should be entrusted to a commissioner with the necessary technical staff.

Re-planning of the area was entrusted to Mr. John C. Rose, A.R.I.B.A., A.Dip. (Executive Architect, Windward Islands), and Mr. Anthony C. Lewis, A.R.I.B.A., B.Arch., M.Sc., C.P. (Associated Architect), who submitted a town plan for consideration by the Authorities concerned. This new town plan was completed by the Architects and exhibited to the public on 1st September, 1948.

The plan was adopted in principle by the various public bodies.

Towns and Villages

Development and Welfare Scheme D156/17 approved by the Secretary of State for the Colonies for five years in 1942 made available the sum of \$6,670 for the purchase of land and the extension of the village of Canaries. Due to the lack of technical staff the scheme was delayed. Since the

establishment of the Central Authority the scheme has been revised and the application renewed.

Anti-Malarial Measures Castries District

Acting on the Malariaologist's report on control measures for Vigie-Vide Bouteille area, the Engineering Assistant to the Windward and Leeward Islands Public Health Engineering Unit took steps for permanent malarial control measures in the area. Up to the end of the year the La Clery Stream had been satisfactorily straightened despite the rainy weather. It is hoped that the entire work will be completed during the first half of 1949.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The resignation of the Social Welfare Officer in October, 1947, left the Department short staffed. The Probation Officer and the Social Welfare Adviser to the Governor, who spent much time in the Colony, had to carry on with the work of the Department.

Groups were organised in Castries and in the Out-Districts and training days were held for the leaders.

The Social Welfare Adviser and the Probation Officer reviewed the circumstances of almost a thousand recipients of out-door relief throughout the Colony. There were also some improvements in the system of administering the relief prior to the setting up of Local Case Committees.

A survey of homeless people in Castries was undertaken with a view to providing a night shelter.

In an attempt to combat delinquency in Castries a building was obtained as a club for wayward boys.

The Department undertook the distribution of food and clothing to fire victims and assisted in their rehabilitation.

The social welfare trainee who returned to the Colony after completing a two-year course in colonial administration and the social sciences at London University was appointed Social Welfare Officer.

Chapter 8: Legislation

Twenty-one Ordinances were passed and 50 Statutory Rules and Orders were made during 1948. Most of these Ordinances and Statutory Rules and Orders comprise minor amendments to existing legislation and covered matters of purely local importance.

The following are of wider interest and call for special mention:

The Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Ordinance, No. 4 of 1948, provided for the registration and proper management of trade unions generally. The provisions of this Ordinance are in general accord with English law.

The Income Tax Ordinance, No. 8 of 1948, which came into force on 15th January, 1948, was principally a consolidation of 10 Ordinances which it repeals. The new Ordinance increased the existing rates of income tax and made income derived outside the Colony liable to tax even when not

received in the Colony. At the same time it made provision for double taxation relief.

The Emergency Powers (Castries Fire) Ordinance, 1948, came into force on 23rd June, 1948, and continued in force until 31st December, 1948. It was passed to meet the state of emergency created by the Castries fire of 19th–20th June and empowered the Governor-in-Council to make regulations necessary or expedient for securing the safety, maintaining public order and providing and maintaining supplies and services essential to the life of the community.

The Hotels Aid Ordinance, No. 17 of 1948, provided for the duty-free importation of building materials and equipment to be used for the purpose of erecting or extending hotels in the Colony. In the Ordinance "hotel" is defined as any building containing, or intending to contain when complete, not less than 20 bedrooms for the accommodation of guests. This Ordinance is basically similar to those passed in Jamaica and in St. Vincent.

The Legislative Council (Election Petition) Rules, 1948, provide the procedure for the filing and trying of petitions arising out of disputed election results.

The Factories Regulation, 1948, lays down precautions required in so far as the fencing of machinery is concerned, provisions regarding safe means of access, fire warnings, fire escapes, emergency exits, etc.; in addition provisions are made covering sanitary conditions, overcrowding, air circulation, lighting and drainage. Restrictions are imposed on the employment of women and of boys under 16 years of age.

The Emergency Powers (Castries Fire) Regulations flow from the Emergency Powers (Castries Fire) Ordinance, and were passed to meet circumstances which arose at the time.

The Buildings Bye-Law, 1948, brings up to date the Buildings Bye-Law of the town of Castries and includes modern requirements such as open spaces around buildings, specifications as to size of rooms, windows, ventilation, erections projecting over footways, etc.

The Air Navigation (Investigation of Accidents) Regulations, 1948, lays down the procedure to be employed as to the notification and investigation of accidents in which aircraft are involved.

Finally, it may be noted that by resolution of the Legislative Council passed on 23rd December, the Rent Restriction Ordinance, 1943, was continued in force up to 31st December, 1948.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

It is convenient to begin a review of the law of St. Lucia from its capitulation to General Grinfield on 22nd June, 1803, and the assurance to the inhabitants by Proclamation that they should continue in the enjoyment of their rights in accordance with the laws which existed immediately prior to the cession. The proclamation of 1803 continued, therefore, as the

law of the Colony, at least in civil matters, the law and ordinances of the French monarchy.

In 1876 owing to uncertainty concerning the law in civil matters, the Civil Code Ordinance was passed and by 1879 the Civil Code and Code of Civil Procedure were produced based on the ancient law of the island with such amendments as the circumstances of the time required.

Broadly speaking, the law relating to commercial matters is based on principles of English law. The commercial law was compiled in 1916 into the Commercial Code, which follows faithfully the lines of existing English statutes, and in that year also statutes of St. Lucia were revised and collected into two volumes called the Revised Ordinances of St. Lucia, 1916. Subordinate legislation was collected in a separate volume called Revised Rules and Orders, 1916. It was not till 1920 that the Criminal Code (Law and Procedure) made its appearance.

Since 1916 new laws, whether by way of amendment to the codes or otherwise, have been published in annual volumes of the Ordinances and Statutory Rules and Orders of St. Lucia.

For the administration of justice the island has been divided into three Judicial Districts. These District Courts of Judicature are presided over by Magistrates who exercise a summary jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters.

The present Superior Court was constituted by the Leeward Islands and Windward Islands (Courts) Order in Council, 1939, what was formerly the Royal Court becoming a circuit of the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands. The Court has unlimited original jurisdiction in all civil or criminal matters, and Admiralty jurisdiction within the meaning and intent of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890, and an appellate jurisdiction over the District Courts. In civil matters which are exclusively assigned to the District Courts, the Supreme Court has no original jurisdiction.

The Windward Islands and Leeward Islands Court of Appeal hears appeals from the Supreme Court in civil and criminal matters in accordance with the rules contained in Statutory Rules and Orders 67 of 1940 as amended. Normally, at least three judges constitute the Court of Appeal, but the rules prescribe classes of appeals to be determined by two judges. The classes so far prescribed are contained in the (Amendment) Rules of 1941, S.R. & O. 1941, No. 36.

The West Indian Court of Appeal is an alternative Court of Appeal in certain matters.

In the First District Court during 1948, 1,818 summary cases were heard, resulting in 1,262 convictions, 567 acquittals (including cases withdrawn). The following sentences were imposed (figures include juveniles): 849 were fined, 46 whipped and 128 imprisoned. Fifty-eight juvenile offenders, all males, came before the Court. In the same Court 236 cases were heard in the civil jurisdiction, six inquests as to death, 17 informations in lunacy. Praedial larceny accounted for 65 cases.

In the Second District Court eight persons were charged indictably and committed for trial to the Supreme Court. There were 513 cases heard as compared with 458 in 1947, involving 559 persons and resulting in 346

convictions, and 215 acquittals (including cases withdrawn). Sixteen juveniles were dealt with compared with 18 in 1947. There were 38 civil cases, four inquests as to deaths and two adjudications of lunacy.

The third District Court heard 434 cases involving 525 persons and resulting in 306 convictions and 219 acquittals (including cases withdrawn). Nineteen juvenile offenders appeared before the court.

In the Supreme Court there were 14 civil cases, 46 criminal cases and five appeals. There were no appeals before the West Indian Court of Appeal.

POLICE

The establishment of the Force, as approved for 1948, was one Senior Superintendent of Police, one Superintendent of Police, one Assistant Superintendent of Police, one sergeant major, one bandmaster and 171 other ranks.

The posts of Senior Superintendent of Police and Assistant Superintendent of Police remained vacant up to 12th and 29th September, 1948, respectively.

The Force was allocated to Castries (Headquarters) and the following police stations: Vieux Fort, Soufrière, Dennery, Choiseul, Laborie, Anse-la-Rayé, Canaries, Micoud, Gros Islet and La Caye.

In addition to normal police duties the Force was responsible for fire brigades, immigration, traffic and licensing, weights and measures and film censorship.

The Senior Superintendent of Police relinquished command of the Royal Gaol, on the establishment of a separate Prisons Department, early in July, 1948.

The standard of recruitment continued to depreciate, resignations of fairly senior other ranks continued. This, coupled with a shortage of officers and general discontent, led to a serious decline of morale and discipline which reached its peak at the time of the Castries fire.

On 31st December, 1948, the strength of the Force was 144 n.c.o.s and constables; of these 57 had two years' service, 49 had seven years' service and only 38 had over seven years' service.

His Honour Mr. Justice Crane, Judge of the Supreme Court, was appointed to hold an enquiry into the causes and circumstances of the Castries fire, and Brigadier A. S. Mavrogordato, O.B.E., was appointed to enquire into the general discipline and conduct of the Police Force prior to and during the Castries fire. These reports have since been published.

As a result of recommendations made in these reports, the work of re-organising the Police Force and Fire Brigade was put in hand. The programme provides for the complete reorganisation of police administration, C.I.D., fire brigades, immigration, traffic and licensing and is intended to bring the service up to a standard reasonably comparable with other like Forces. The programme is being implemented as rapidly as possible.

On the breakdown of the local Force, the Governments of other British

Caribbean Colonies rendered invaluable service by sending officers and police detachments to help restore normal conditions and to assist in training. Special mention in this connection should be made of the assistance rendered by Trinidad, Grenada, Dominica and St. Vincent.

Transport, previously a serious problem, has been improved; the acquisition of two Ford pick-ups and a Chevrolet station wagon eased the situation and cut expenses considerably.

Police Buildings. There has been a lack of essential maintenance over a prolonged period.

The question of construction of police buildings at Dennery and Micoud is in the planning stage. Buildings to accommodate Fire Brigades are included in the Colony's rebuilding programme. The question of extending buildings to meet the present and future needs of Headquarters and the Police Training School is also being considered.

Fire Brigade. Following the Castries fire, one station sergeant, two lance corporals and 12 constables were posted to the Fire Brigade for full-time duty and a programme of fire training was begun.

Orders for fire-fighting apparatus have been placed in London and steps taken throughout the Colony to minimise fire risks in Government and public buildings and places of entertainment.

The Police Band consisting of a bandmaster, three bandsmen and 12 band cadets has performed at all official functions in Castries throughout the year and at many functions in the out-districts. The band has been much appreciated by all classes of the population.

Crime Statistics. Crime figures for 1948 show a slight decrease over 1947, the totals being 1,870 and 2,216 respectively. Indictable cases increased by 30 from 236 in 1947 to 266 in 1948. The great majority of these cases are housebreaking and larceny. The fire in Castries in June, 1948, was responsible for an increase in larceny during that year. House-breaking is most common around the outskirts of Castries in the poorer areas, where methods of securing doors and windows are somewhat primitive and badly effected. The poor people continue to rob the poor, not only in town areas but also in rural districts. The habit of robbing crops, often before they are ripe, occurs with great frequency and is most discouraging to garden cultivators. Many small-holdings have been abandoned in consequence.

Summary of non-indictable cases decreased from 1,980 in 1947 to 1,604 in 1948.

There were no murders or crimes of particular interest in 1948.

General crime figures are almost parallel for both 1947 and 1948. In 1947 74.6 per cent and in 1948 73.9 per cent were concluded. Cases not concluded are those left "under investigation" or "closed undetected". A proportion of these are cleared up later. The most important are house, shop and kitchen breaking which form the largest number of unsolved cases.

The number of persons concerned in cases in 1948 was 1,800—1,352 males, and 448 females, of these 938 males and 253 females were arrested and 414 males and 195 females were summoned.

	1948			1947		
(a) Convicted	945	males	307	females	1,053	males
(b) Acquitted	130	"	38	"	118	"
(c) Withdrawn by Police.	211	"	80	"	109	"
(d) Withdrawn by Complainant	16	"	4	"	17	"
(e) Pending trial	50	"	19	"	102	"
TOTAL	1,352		448		1,399	
					560	

Included among persons convicted are juveniles and young persons in following age groups:

	Age: 6/8	8/10	10/12	12/14	14/16	16/18	18/21	TOTAL
1948.	nil	2	9	12	52	68	212	365
1947.	2	4	32	52	89	96	293	568

There was a marked decrease in juvenile offenders in 1948, owing partly to the various measures adopted by the Social Welfare Officer and also to the removal of families from congested areas of the town to Vigie and the Morne and to the considerable help given them by the Castries Fire Relief Committee.

Traffic Cases. Traffic accident cases showed a marked increase despite a strong tendency on the part of owners and drivers to refrain from reporting such incidents.

Of a total of 96 traffic cases reported and prosecuted, convictions were obtained in 64, 29 cases were withdrawn and the balance were dismissed. These figures included 20 road accident cases.

The number of motor vehicles registered in the Colony on 31st December, 1948, was 284.

Immigration. Immigration duties have been carried out at the Port of Castries, Vigie Air Port and Vieux Fort. The issuing of new passports has been undertaken since 1st October, 1947.

During the year, 598 police permits (in lieu of passports for travel in the British West Indies), 835 new passports and 335 exit permits for other countries were issued, and 2,338 passports and permits were endorsed. Four hundred and fifty certificates of character were issued.

Miscellaneous. The Police act as both criminal and civil process servers. In 1948, 6,338 criminal and 450 civil summonses were received; 30 warrants of arrest, 291 warrants of commitment and 228 search warrants were dealt with; three warrants of arrest and 25 warrants of commitment were outstanding at the end of the year.

Two hundred and thirteen weights and measures were inspected and stamped for the first time and 664 verified.

The following licences were issued at Police Headquarters: driving 436; vehicle 284; gun 275; radio 103; bicycle 253; butchers 214. At Out-stations 361 canoe licences were issued; those in Castries area are dealt with by the Harbour Master.

PRISONS

A Prisons Conference was held in Barbados in May under the chairmanship of Mr. N. R. Hilton, a retired Director of Prisons in the United Kingdom, with the object of improving prison conditions and administration. Steps were taken to put into effect some of the changes recommended at the Conference. Prisons, which were previously under the direction of the Senior Superintendent of Police, passed under the administrative control of the Keeper of the Royal Gaol, whose title for purposes of uniformity with other Colonies has been changed to Superintendent of Prisons. The working staff consists of one chief officer, 20 male officers for the male prison and a matron and assistant matron in charge of the female side. Accommodation and staff in the male prison has been taxed during the past few months by a great increase in the number of arrests made for looting after the Castries Fire. The overcrowded condition in the male prison made it necessary for 28 long-term prisoners to be transferred to the prison in the neighbouring island of Barbados.

For the first time two male officers were sent for a short course of training with favourable results.

An important step was made in abolishing stone-quarrying and breaking and the introduction instead of prison farm cultivation on 12 acres of land at La Toc under the direction of the Department of Agriculture. It is hoped that this scheme, apart from providing ground provisions and vegetables for use in the prison's kitchens, will encourage agricultural pursuits. An average of 40 prisoners work on this small farm. Vocational training was continued under trade officers qualified to teach carpentry, boot-making, tailoring and bread-making. During 1948, 93,725 lb. of bread and 5,510 lb. of cocoa were made and supplied to Government institutions. Two hundred and ninety-six coffins were made for burial of paupers, and 320 pairs of boots were repaired for Government institutions. The Prison, immediately after the fire, contributed its share in relief work by preparing large quantities of food for the communal feeding of persons rendered destitute by the fire.

The value of the manufacturing work done was \$22,249 and the expenditure on materials \$14,651, the profit of \$7,598 being carried to the Colony's General Revenue. Total expenditure for the year amounted to \$29,689, and the annual cost of maintenance of a prisoner was \$121.60.

On 31st December, 1948, 106 prisoners were serving sentence as follows: life imprisonment, one male; 10 years, one male; 7 years, 2 males; 5 years, 3 males; 4 years, one male and one female; 3 years, 10 males and 2 females; 2 years, 11 males and one female; 18 months, 3 males; 15 months, one female; 12 months, 18 males and 1 female; 9 months and under, 34 males and 6 females. Seven males on remand and four females committed to Grand Sessions were awaiting trial.

No executions took place during 1948. There were three escapes during the year; two of the men were captured the following day and the third remained at large for 30 days. There was a marked decline in breaches of prison discipline; 85 males and four females were punished, of these 18

were cautioned and the remainder received various punishments, ranging from solitary confinement and punishment diets to being deprived of recreation.

The Prison Medical Officer paid 288 visits to the Prison and found that the prisoners' health was good and that diet was maintained at normal standards. With the increased use of green vegetables no illness due to faulty diet was reported and the majority of the prisoners put on weight. Dental treatment, when necessary, was provided at the Castries Health Centre. Forty-six males and four females were admitted to the Hospital, 1,653 males and 38 females were prescribed for and returned to work, while 192 males and six females were prescribed for and excused from work.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

CASTRIES WATER SUPPLY

The town of Castries, including a few areas outside the municipal limits, is served by pipe-borne water, the supply being administered by the Castries Town Board.

The supply of a quarter million gallons per day capacity originates from surface run-off from a catchment area of about 2,000 acres, part of which flows by gravity through steel and asbestos cement pipes and part is pumped by oil-engine-driven centrifugal pumps.

The treatment given is plain sedimentation in a 450,000-gallon reservoir. This also provides storage, slow sand filtration, and sterilisation by the chloramine process. The water then passes to a service reservoir of 300,000-gallon capacity, whence it flows through mains to the town.

In the distribution area the population is served by public street stand pipes and private water services, for which a general water rate in respect of all premises is imposed, and a water supply rate in respect of those premises having private supplies. A few industrial supplies are metered, and water is also supplied to shipping by meter. Street hydrants provide water for fire-fighting.

A scheme for the extension of the supply is in progress, material for which is already arriving from the United Kingdom. The general plan is to develop both the gravity and the pumped supplies to a capacity of approximately 800,000 gallons per day, substituting electricity for diesel power, to erect a purification plant of a modern type to accommodate coagulating tanks, gravity filters, chloramine and lime-dosing plant, and to distribute to a larger area than at present in two zones, a low-level to include most of the present municipal area, and a high-level to include the higher areas outside the present municipal limits.

CASTRIES ELECTRICITY

The station which was built in 1933 had originally two Belliss & Morcom General Electric Co. alternator sets of 36 kw 416 volts 3 phase 50 cycles

running at 500 r.p.m.; a 72 kw set of the same make was installed in 1938. One of the 36 kw sets was replaced by a 103.5 kw set in 1945, and the second 36 kw set was replaced by a further 103.5 kw set in May, 1947.

Very little extension of the feed or network was undertaken during the year as most of the areas were adequately served by the existing mains which cover the town, Vigie, Morne Fortuné, La Toc, and the whole of the built-up area to the east of the town.

The number of consumers has not shown the decrease expected due to the Fire as many new consumers were added as soon as materials became available:

Lighting consumers	.	.	649
Domestic	"	.	68
Industrial	"	.	16

The current sold to consumers during 1948 cannot be given as all records were lost. The current sold to the town for street lighting is estimated at 28,000 units.

The whole plant is in a satisfactory state of repair and is still operating perfectly.

Apart from the village of Anse-la-Rayé, for which an electricity supply system is in process of inauguration, the town of Soufrière is the only other district of the island provided with electricity for general consumption. The Soufrière undertaking is in the hands of the Soufrière Electricity Supply Co., Ltd., and franchise is secured for the company by the Electricity Supply of Soufrière Ordinance, 1939. The anse-la-Rayé system which commenced operation in December, 1946, is in the first instance to be controlled by Government through the non-statutory Village Improvement Committee, and an ordinance is being drawn up on the lines of the Soufrière Ordinance which will enable power to be transferred to a local authority under the provisions of the New Local Authorities Ordinance. A conference on rural electrification, held at Vieux Fort, was attended by members of the local authorities concerned.

PUBLIC WORKS

During the years 1946 to 1948 amounts authorised for expenditure on public works were:

	1946	1947	1948
Public Works Extraordinary	\$132,240.00	\$78,768.00	\$33,595.35
Public Works Annually			
Recurrent .	103,464.00	173,184.00	132,106.00

The following works were scheduled for execution during the year:

(a) *Roads.* The Castries-Dennery road on the hillside just above Dennery Village was reconstructed and very bad colassed sections were repaired at various points.

(b) *Quarters for Steward of Government House.* Work on this building was carried out.

(c) *Police Training School.* The estimated amount for this work was

exceeded due to the additions made to the original plan consequent on the Castries fire. The building was completed before the end of the year.

(d) *Maintenance and Building.* Repairs were effected to all the main roads throughout the island. The most outstanding being in Castries-Barre-de-l'Isle and the Castries-Gros Islet roads, which were much improved.

General maintenance, improvement and repairs to all second class and unclassified roads were carried out, principally the Waterworks, Cul-de-Sac-Anse-la-Raye, Soufrière-Anse-la-Raye and Volet-Mahaut roads. Widening of the first section of the Marchand road, for which a special warrant of \$1,680 was issued, was carried on to the end of the year.

Work on the new nurses' quarters, Victoria Hospital, and the new sanitary arrangements at the Mental Home was satisfactorily carried out.

Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes

Work was done on several schemes during the year; Vigie Airport was almost completed by the end of the year; a scheme for building a park at Vieux Fort to cost \$2,400 was finished and so was the District Administrative Centre building at Vieux Fort.

The Micoud water supply scheme, approved in 1943, was finished at the end of the year.

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

During the war the volume of shipping showed a marked decrease but the signs of recovery in 1947 were maintained in 1948. During the year the net tonnage of all shipping making use of the Port of Castries was 495,938, or an increase of 60,557 tons over 1947 and twice as much as the 1946 figure. The total number of ships calling at Castries was 752, of these 228 were steamers with a total tonnage of 392,060; sailing vessels numbered 444, an increase over the figure of 367 in 1947. Statistics indicate that the dependence upon sailing vessels which played such a vital part in maintaining communications during the war still remains. Sea-borne passengers showed a marked increase on previous years.

AIR

The Colony is served by two regular air services, British West Indian Airways and Pan-American Airways. B.W.I.A. maintains a thrice-weekly service, and makes use of the Vigie Airport which is only 1½ miles from Castries. Periodic calls by K.L.M. airline were made. Four hundred and fifty-three aircraft were entered. P.A.A. calls at Beane Field, the U.S. Air Force Base at the south of the island which forms a link in the Pan-American Airway Caribbean Service.

RAILWAYS

There are no railways or tramways in the Colony.

COASTAL SERVICES

The Government subsidises the carriage of passengers and mail coastwise from Castries to Soufrière and further south to Vieux Fort by launch. The coastal service by launches showed a marked improvement.

ROADS

Road transportation which forms the main communication between the east-coast villages and the southern part of the island increased greatly and nearly all out-districts are now connected by a daily service with Castries and intermediate towns and villages. The mail service by road for the easterly and southern districts continues.

The major road project of 1948 was the continuation of the construction of the Dennery-Vieux Fort road by Messrs. Harriman & Co. of Trinidad under contract with Government for the sum of \$275,244.

POSTS

Air Mail. The British International Airways Ltd. maintained an efficient service connecting the British West Indian islands from Jamaica to Trinidad, with the exception of Dominica and St. Vincent, three times a week. The postage is $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per half-ounce for terminal mails to the places served by the company. British International Airways Ltd. took over from the British West Indian Airways in October, 1947.

Air mails are also conveyed by Pan American Airways to Beane Field, Vieux Fort; they continued their service to St. Lucia during the year.

Mails to other parts of the world are forwarded via Trinidad.

Greater use is being made of the air mail facilities with a correspondingly increased sale of stamps.

Frequent chartered flights of the Grumman Plane connect St. Vincent and Dominica with St. Lucia.

Surface Mail. Surface mails from the United Kingdom, Europe, Canada, and the United States of America were received by steamers of the Harrison Line, Canadian National Steamships, and the Alcoa Steamship Company. Mails were despatched to the destinations aforementioned by these same steamers and via Barbados by M.V. *Lady Joy* and the many schooners that ply between these islands.

French craft ply between Martinique and this island and between Martinique and French Guiana via the southern islands.

Inland mail. Inland communication between different parts of the island is by means of road or coastal launch services. Government pays a subsidy for the carriage of mails, passengers and cargo on both routes. The service (coastwise) from Soufrière to Castries and return via Anse-la-Rayé and Canaries was daily except Wednesdays, Sundays and bank holidays. The service (coastwise) to Choiseul, Laborie and Vieux Fort was three times a week. The service (overland) from Vieux Fort to Castries and return via Micoud, Patience and Dennery was four times a week. The overland route from Vieux Fort is approximately 40 miles and runs from

Castries in a southerly direction across the island from west to east to Dennery turning south to Vieux Fort along the coast.

Stamps. The St. Lucia Silver Wedding commemorative stamps, 1*d.* and £1 denominations, were placed on sale at all post offices and stamp vendors' premises on 26th November, 1948. The period of sale of these stamps was for three months, or until stocks are exhausted, whichever is the earlier. During the period the special stamps were on sale, the corresponding denominations in the existing series were withdrawn from sale.

General. The Castries fire on 19th-20th June destroyed the General Post Office building. Much of the stores and equipment and most of the parcels then on hand were however saved. No letters or stamps were lost. Alternative accommodation was found and business started as usual by noon on the following day.

The mercantile community is making greater use of the parcel post section particularly, and since the fire the work at the Post Office has increased tremendously.

Telegraph and Radio. The telegraph service was carried out by Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd. The wireless telephone service was available between Castries and the United Kingdom, Canada and the British West Indian islands, and the United States of America from December, 1947.

Telephone. The telephone system owned and maintained by Government operates 166½ miles of trunk lines; 317 telephones were in service during the year.

Chapter 12: Miscellaneous

The main preoccupation of the Colony in the latter half of the year was the Castries Fire of 19th and 20th June, 1948. This has been described as the greatest calamity to befall a Colony of its size and resources in so short a space of time. In twelve hours four-fifths of the capital town was completely obliterated by fire.

The spectacle of gaunt walls and twisted girders, standing stark and lifeless, would be familiar to those who emerged from the agony of war and destruction. The fire was a major catastrophe in West Indian history.

The alarm of a fire which had started in a tailor's shop in the north-easterly part of "up-town" was given at 8 o'clock on Saturday evening, 19th June. Fanned by a strong breeze, the flames swept out of control, mostly in a south-westerly direction where the fire spent itself at the wharves. The assistance was obtained of a fire-fighting squad of the United States Air Force stationed at the U.S. Base, Beane Field, but in spite of their prompt arrival, the conflagration had assumed proportions too great for normal combating methods.

The entire commercial section of the town was gutted, and the following Government buildings lost: Administration, Customs, Treasury, Audit, Post Office, Executive Architect, Education, Printery, Supreme Court and Magistrate's Court, Registry, Labour, Controller of Supplies and the Castries Town Board, including warehouses.

All the principal mercantile houses suffered loss, including Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.), Cable & Wireless (West Indies) Ltd., and the Voice Publishing Co. Irreparable damage was done to Government files and records and the Colony's archives, which at the time were being indexed and catalogued. A great blow was the loss of the Carnegie Library, which was reputed to have the best reference section in the British West Indies, the Gramophone Library, and an important collection of historical documents, and antiques belonging to Mr. Thomas Ferguson, the local historian and antiquarian.

Apart from a few small shops on the outskirts of the town, all stores and their contents were destroyed, and commercial life came to a standstill for a week. Fortunately the electric power station and telephone exchange escaped damage. The Government Departments which were saved were the Police, Agricultural, Public Works, Medical and the Central Housing Authority. By great efforts, the buildings of St. Mary's College, St. Joseph's Convent, the Roman Catholic Church, all within the path of the fire, were saved. No school buildings were destroyed.

Immediately after the news of the catastrophe and summons for aid were flashed to the outside world, help began to come in from the neighbouring islands. Among the first arrivals were the Red Cross and police detachments from Trinidad, Grenada and St. Vincent. Due to the prompt arrival of H.M.S. *Sparrow* and police squads from the islands named, widespread looting was checked and security measures put into effect.

It was discovered that over 500 houses were destroyed and 809 families, comprising 1,312 adults and 981 children, or a total of 2,293 persons, were rendered homeless. Fortunately there was no loss of life, and the morale of the victims won high praise. The following day Government took measures for the relief of distress and emergency relief committees were set up to deal with the distribution of food, clothing, household effects and comforts, together with the provision of temporary housing. The military barracks at Vigie and the Morne situated two miles from the devastated area, provided temporary shelter.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 23rd June, 1948, the Emergency Powers (Castries) Fire Bill was enacted, and this Ordinance conferred on the Governor-in-Council powers to meet the state of emergency, and specifically to maintain public order, supplies and services essential to the life of the community, to take possession or control of property or undertaking, regulate building operations and materials and suspend the obligations of banks. A proclamation declaring a moratorium of payments by the bank for seven days was issued. The contents of the safe deposit at the bank were intact.

During the time that the ruins still smouldered emergency repairs to electric power lines were undertaken, the water supply system was started, and main telephonic communication was resumed by the installation of a sub-exchange on the northern outskirts of the town. The days after the fire were marked by a steady and speedy flow of relief cargoes which arrived by steamers, motor vessels, sailing craft and planes. The neighbouring Colonies showed a generosity not previously known and without exception launched vigorous public appeals for money and clothing. His

Majesty's Government contributed \$168,000 as a free grant to relieve immediate distress. In London, the West India Committee started a public subscription and its list was still open at the end of 1948.

His Excellency the Governor of the Windward Islands, under the Commissions of Enquiry Ordinance, appointed a Commission of Enquiry into the "causes and circumstances of the fire" on 28th June, 1948, with the following terms of reference:

To investigate

- "(a) The origin and cause of the fire,
- (b) the reasons for the spread of fire to the greater part of the town,
- (c) the measures taken to combat the fire, and
- (d) the adequacy of the available fire-fighting devices and resources."

The Commission was issued to His Honour Mr. Justice A. V. Crane, LL.B., to conduct a public inquiry. His Report was published on 24th July, 1948. He found that the reasons for the spread of the fire to the greater part of the town were:

- (a) The want of training, practice in, knowledge and experience of fire-fighting on the part of the Brigade personnel from the head downwards;
- (b) the complete absence of organisation and discipline of the Brigade personnel;
- (c) the failure of the Brigade personnel to employ all its available water power at the earliest stage of the fire, and later to concentrate on extinguishing the fire when it reached Corporation Street;
- (d) the inadequacy of the existing equipment for putting out a large fire, and
- (e) the absence of sufficient water pressure from the Town Board mains.

On 7th July, 1948, the Castries Fire Relief Fund Committee was constituted, its members represented every sphere of interest in the Castries area, and it had the following terms of reference :

"To invite and investigate all claims for relief of distress by loss of moveable or immovable property caused by the Castries Fire on the 19th day of June 1948, and to make recommendations with regard to the distribution of grant or loan funds subscribed or made available to the Castries Fire Relief Fund from all sources having regard to:

- (a) the sources of individual claimants and their capacity for self-rehabilitation;
- (b) the extent of loss suffered by individual claimants."

This Committee obtained valuable statistics as to the extent of loss and confirmed earlier estimates of the value of property destroyed as being over \$9,600,000. The sum of \$446,040 was received as contributions to the Relief Fund up to the end of the year.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

ST. LUCIA is one of the curved chain of volcanic islands which comprise the Lesser Antilles. It is situated between the longitude limits $60^{\circ} 53'$ West and $61^{\circ} 05'$ West and the latitude limits $13^{\circ} 43'$ North and $14^{\circ} 07'$ North. It lies approximately halfway between St. Vincent to the South and the French island of Martinique to the north. Its greatest length north to south is 27 miles; its greatest breadth 14 miles. The area, 233 square miles, is a little more than that of the Isle of Man.

The island is mountainous, the highest peak being Mt. Gimie (3,145 feet). The most spectacular mountains are the Gros Piton (2,619 feet) and the Petit Piton (2,461 feet), which are old volcanic forest clad cones rising sheer out of the sea near the town of Soufrière on the leeward coast. A few miles away in an ancient crater are dark-coloured, hot, bubbling sulphurous springs, an indication of the decadent volcanic activity of this district.

The mountains are intersected by numerous short rivers which have a regime corresponding to the wet (June–December) and comparatively dry seasons. In places, these rivers debouch into broad fertile and well cultivated valleys. The population of the Island is 69,091. Of this number, 20,085 live in towns and larger villages. The rest may be described as being a scattered rural population. The mountainous build and forested nature of the island have virtually restricted settlement to the coastal areas. The capital, Castries (population 7,056), is situated on a fine sheltered deep-water harbour (27 feet deep along quay-side at low water). Other settlements—Soufrière (3,219), Vieux Fort (2,747), Anse-la-Rayé (1,524), Dennery (1,391), Micoud (1,141), as well as the smaller villages, Canaries, Laborie, Gros Islet, Choiseul—are all on the coast. The place names are largely of French origin. A corrupt French patois is still spoken especially amongst the rural population.

Motorable roads connect Castries with all the main centres of population except one which is accessible only by sea. There is regular coastal communication on the leeward side of the island; sloops and schooners also ply an inter-island trade from Castries. Modern conditions—especially the increasing use of oil-burning vessels—have led to the decline of the formerly important coaling industry in Castries. The harbour is still an important port of call for ocean-going liners and naval craft. Planes call three times weekly at the Castries airport. This inter-island air communication is supplemented by occasional visits from sea planes and amphibian aircraft.

Under the Anglo-American Agreement of 1940, sites for a seaplane base at Gros Islet Bay in the north and for a land aircraft base at Vieux Fort in the south, have been leased to U.S.A. The Vieux Fort base is a port of call for Pan-American Airways.

Racially the island has in the main a negro or mixed negro and white population. Small numbers of East Indian origin are found and there is a very small percentage of European descent.

The island has a mainly agricultural economy; many find work on the large estates and in the sugar factories, or else are peasant small-holders. Efforts are being made to market peasant agricultural produce on a co-operative basis.

CLIMATE

The island lies in latitudes where the N.E. Trade winds are almost a constant influence. The rainfall varies considerably, being greatest in the interior mountain region. The following are average yearly rainfall figures in inches, from six selected stations:

<i>Station and Locality</i>	<i>Length in Years of Period of Observation</i>	<i>Average Rainfall in inches</i>
Corinth (North)	22	88.46
Castries (W. Coast)	22	91.56
Vanard (W. Interior)	18	107.03
Quilesse (Central Interior)	9	158.01
Soufrière (W. Coast)	22	96.35
Vieux Fort (S. Coast)	19	70.04

The first four months of the year tend to be the driest. During the rest of the year there is much variation with an insufficiency of reliable data to draw sound conclusions. Reliable temperature figures are not available. Generally speaking it can be said that the temperature rarely exceeds 90° F. and seldom falls below 70° F. except in the higher altitudes. The daily range is small. At Morne Fortuné (Castries, 845 feet) wind percentage figures show that 90 per cent of the winds come from the east, east-north-east, and north-east, a constancy of direction which is reflected in the fact that Castries airport has a one-directional air strip.

Chapter 2: History

It has not been easy to find information regarding the early history of St. Lucia, especially the story of the Caribs, the aborigines who inhabited the island. In fact, so scant is the information, that the date of discovery is uncertain, for according to the known evidence of Columbus's voyages, he appears to have missed the island. Even the early days of colonisation leave blanks that it is impossible to fill. Archaeological finds in various parts of the island, though of no major significance, may later contribute to the knowledge that is still to be learnt of the warlike race that resisted the early attempts of European settlement.

As early as 1605, 67 Englishmen *en route* to Guiana, touched at St. Lucia and made an unsuccessful attempt to settle. The first recorded settlement was in 1638, when a few hundred men, under one Captain Judlee, with fortune seekers from Bermuda and St. Kitts, met with great opposition from the Caribs and were driven out in 1641. It is known that French settlers also staked claims in various parts of the Island, but the real conflict did not begin until the French and the English each laid inconclusive claims to the island, and from 1650 it became a bone of contention and war. The French claim was based upon the reputed grant of the island by Cardinal Richelieu, and the English contended that the island was granted to them by Charles I, who had given over sovereign rights to the Earl of Carlisle. At the time, the French had formed a French West Indian Company, headed by De L'Olive and Du Plessis.

In 1650 it would appear that Royal grants had fallen into disfavour. The French under the Governor of Martinique, Du Parquet, took the opportunity to befriend the still hostile Caribs, and having allayed their suspicions, started a massacre of this fast-disappearing race. In 1660 a peace treaty was made between the Caribs and the French. But quiet was not to last long, for in 1663, Francis, Lord Willoughby, who had a lease of the whole neighbouring island of Barbados contested the French claims to sovereignty. Lord Willoughby placed the plans for attacking St. Lucia in the hands of the adventurer Thomas Warner, who with one thousand men set sail from Barbados, and descended upon the island and over-powered the French. This was the first full-dress rehearsal to the internecine wars that rocked the island for over one hundred and fifty years. The settlers and soldiers under Thomas Warner gave in to disease and attacks by the Caribs. In 1667 the French again took the island, which was formally restored to them at the Peace Treaty of Breda.

In a brief exposition such as this it is not possible to give the full implications of this contest between the English and the French. The island had undoubtedly strategic advantages, with good harbours and sheltered waters, where ships could refit, repair and re-victual. The powers recognised the extraordinary advantages of some of the harbours and bays on the western coast, so much so that the island adopted as its motto, "Statio haud malefida carinis". In 1667 the island was made a dependency of the French island of Martinique. Between 1651 and 1793, there was a succession of thirty-six French Governors during those periods when it was held by the French.

It is believed that after the island was annexed to Martinique no settlers remained in St. Lucia. In 1718, the Regent d'Orleans made a grant of the Island to the Marshal d'Estrees who attempted to settle it once again. This further attempt at colonisation created resentment from the English, and in 1722 George I of England granted the island to the Duke of Montague. The Duke of Montague attempted to consolidate this grant by sending a strong party of colonists and soldiers under Captain Uring, to fight if possible the French at their base in Martinique. In 1723 the island was declared neutral, pending the decision of the interested parties. The decision was an agreeable one, for both sides agreed to withdraw their claims and settlers, and the island was used for the restricted purposes of

refitting and watering ships. Twenty years later, in 1743, the Marquis de Caylus, Governor General of Martinique, ordered his troops to capture St. Lucia, for once again England and France were at war. In 1748 the Treaty of Aix la Chapelle declared the island to be neutral.

The international situation in Europe flared into the Seven Years' War in 1756. In 1762, the island was captured by the naval forces of Admiral Rodney, yet this surrender was purposeless, for when the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1763, the island was assigned to France. At this period some of England's leading soldiers and sailors took part in these campaigns, and names like Stewart, Abercrombie and Moore, are to be remembered. After 1763, the French started to lay fortifications, and establish a permanent government. The island, in spite of these wranglings, had established by this time its foremost crop, sugar, for in 1765 the first sugar factory was established at Vieux Fort and negro slaves to work on the plantations were introduced. In 1772, the population was 2,018 whites, 633 coloured, and 12,795 Negroes.

During the administration of the French, the island made some headway under Chevalier de Micoud. The town of Castries, its present capital, was transferred from Le Petit Carenage in the Castries harbour on the Vigie Peninsular to its present site. The fortifications were further strengthened by the building of the massive forts on Morne Fortuné, a site which was to become one of the bloodiest battle-grounds of the Caribbean. In 1778, Rodney captured the island once again, and he held the position for England. Rodney insisted that the island should be held at all costs, for he had now been fully convinced of its strategic potentialities. Exactly what Rodney thought of the island as a naval outpost of the Empire, is contained in a letter addressed to the Earl of Sandwich, and is reproduced in Breen's *History of St. Lucia*, a work published in 1844. Four years later, in 1782, Rodney repulsed a vigorous attempt by the French to retake the island. It was at this time that Britain launched one of the greatest blows at French naval power, with the defeat of the French fleet under de Grasse at the battle of the Saints. The irony of the Treaty of Versailles the following year, was that St. Lucia was restored to France.

In 1794, a France torn with revolution at home, and in its dependencies, received another blow when Admiral Jarvice took the island. The following year, the island changed hands, when Victor Hughes, a French Republican and friend of Robespierre, captured the island in the name of France. The following year Sir Ralph Abercrombie and Sir John Moore retook the island for England, only for it to be restored to France by the Treaty of Amiens in 1802. Morne Fortuné was turned into the decisive battle ground in 1803, for the Morne was carried by storm by well-known British Regiments. Finally this island, the Helen of the West Indies, was ceded to Britain in 1814 at the Treaty of Paris.

With so much attention paid to the struggle between two powers, we must not forget the major issues and significance of the triangular international trade. In fact St. Lucia, like the rest of the archipelago, was an important link in the chain of rivalry for trade. The island gradually was being developed with plantations expanding their cultivation of sugar, cotton, coffee and spices. The island did not seem to "settle down", for

after it had gained respite from war, came the rising tide of revolt, and the Emancipation Act of 1833, when the slaves were set free after their period of apprenticeship.

Breen the historian, said in his *History of St. Lucia*, "Although St. Lucia's progress has been retarded by a thousand vicissitudes—fires and hurricanes, and internecine divisions and maroon wars, and foreign invasion and political broils, and financial difficulties and even bankruptcy; yet there is no colony that has passed through the ordeal of emancipation with less detriment to the interests of public order. . . ."

In the post-abolition days, and with the end of the Industrial Revolution of Europe, the commerce of the island grew. With the advent of steamships the colony became an important coaling centre, and in 1913 ranked as the 13th largest coaling station in the British commonwealth.

In 1838, St. Lucia was included with Barbados, Grenada and St. Vincent in one general Government, with Headquarters at Barbados, under a Governor-General, with a Lieutenant-Governor residing in each of the other islands. In 1885, a new Windward Island Government was established, comprising St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada and Tobago, with Headquarters in Grenada. In 1851, the Castries Municipal Corporation was formed, to administer the affairs of the small capital town, and in 1890 the Castries Town Board replaced that body. The Castries Town Board enjoys the reputation of being the oldest wholly elected municipal authority in the British West Indies.

St. Lucia played an important role during World War I, being one of the largest Admiralty Coaling Stations. With the change-over to oil-burning vessels, the coaling trade declined. The greatest event of the twentieth century was the establishment of two United States Bases, under the 1940 Anglo-American Agreement.

The Castries Fire of 19-20th June, 1948, is a dark page in St. Lucia's history, and has already been described in Part II, Chapter 12.

During 1948 an agreement was reached with the United States, whereby the U.S. Base at Gros Islet which was no longer being used was handed back to the St. Lucia Government.

Chapter 3: Administration

The Government of St. Lucia is administered by an Administrator of the Governor of the Windward Islands, aided by an Executive Council. The constitution of the Executive Council is regulated by Royal Instructions of 1936, 1939 and 1945. When present in the Colony the Governor presides and in his absence the Administrator. The Executive Council consists of the Administrator, the Assistant Administrator, the Crown Attorney and the Treasurer as *ex-officio* members and such other persons as His Majesty or the Governor with the approval of the Secretary of State may appoint.

The law-making body is the Legislative Council reconstituted in 1936

by Order in Council and consisting of the Governor, three *ex-officio* members (the Administrator, Crown Attorney and Treasurer), three nominated members and five elected members, one each for three electoral districts and two for the district which includes the capital. The presiding member has a casting vote only.

The franchise extends to British subjects of 21 years of age who have resided in the Island for 12 months at least previous to registration and have the following income or property qualification: income of \$144 per annum; real property worth \$480 or rent of \$57.20 per annum; or the payment of \$3.60 in direct taxes. Persons desiring to register, unless incapacitated by blindness or some other physical cause, are required to sign their names and date their signature in their own hands.

Under the Legislative Council (Elected Members) Ordinance, 1939 as amended in 1945, the Register of voters is made triennially, the most recent one having been completed in March, 1946, showing a total number of 2,194 voters for the four electoral districts.

The powers of the Governor are contained in Letters Patent dated 9th April, 1924, and Royal Instructions of the same date. The Governor has reserve powers under an Order in Council, dated 27th October, 1936, for ensuring the passage of legislation which he considers expedient in the interests of public faith or of good government. Proceedings in council are regulated by Standing Rules and Orders dated 5th October, 1926.

In practice a Finance Committee, consisting of members of Legislative Council, which can be convened informally, functions as a consultative body and enables legislators to be kept in continuous touch with affairs.

Directly responsible to the Administrator are the Heads of Department.

A list of the principal departments follows:

Administration Department.

Agricultural Department.

Audit Department.

Education Department.

Legal Department.

Medical Department.

Police Department.

Port and Marine Department.

Post Office Department.

Public Works Department.

Treasury and Customs Department.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Castries Town Board is a wholly elected body which prides itself on a history dating from 1890. The Board is constituted under the Castries Town Board Ordinance, No. 129, 1916 Revision, and within the limits of the Town of Castries has complete authority for raising and spending funds. In addition to the usual functions performed by a municipality, the Board is responsible for the supply of electricity to Castries and surroundings. Elections are held yearly, and one half of the members of the Board

retire every year in rotation, but are eligible for re-election. The members elect their chairman.

A major development in administration took place in 1948, when towns and villages started on the road to managing their own affairs under powers given by the Local Authorities Ordinance of 1946, proclaimed law in 1947.

Previously small towns and villages were represented by Improvement Committees, appointed by Government to advise Village Wardens on matters affecting their community. These committees had no statutory powers. The change over to a democratic system of local government was received with great enthusiasm, and at the 1947 Conference delegates made recommendations that the future Local Authorities should determine and control boundaries, roads, bridges and buildings, recreation grounds, sanitation, poor relief and local welfare, water services, electricity, fire fighting, markets and abattoirs, pounds and cemeteries, rates and taxes.

The first elections were held in December, 1947. Unfortunately, owing to the restricted printing facilities for publishing the electoral roll in each area as required by statute, no elections were held in 1948 and the Governor-in-Council extended the life of the councils for another year.

The functions of a District Officer are in the main supervisory and his office is at a convenient point of contact for the local authorities with the central administration. The Ordinance does not vest him with any official status within the local authorities, his position being that of the representative of the Administrator resident in the district. Administratively it has been arranged that matters affecting the districts under his supervision should be transmitted through the District Office to the Central Administration.

In the Ordinance the functions of the local authorities are fully defined. The authorities are enabled to accumulate funds on which they may draw in accordance with estimates approved by the Central Administration. The accounts are subject to audit by the Audit Department and inspection by members of the Legislative Council.

An attempt has been made to make the Ordinance sufficiently elastic to enable authorities, however called, to develop into fully elected bodies as they gain stability and experience. Provision is made for a direct subvention from central funds and for dissolution by the Governor-in-Council in the event of persistent mismanagement. Where a local authority is dissolved the Governor may by nomination complete the constitution of the Council or, in certain circumstances, appoint a person to act in the place of the local authority.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

The standard measures recognised by the laws of St. Lucia are as follows:

- (i) Standard of length, the Imperial yard.
- (ii) Standard of weight, the Imperial pound.
- (iii) Standard of capacity, the Imperial gallon.

Chapter 5: Newspapers and Periodicals

Two newspapers are published in Castries.

The Voice of St. Lucia, established 1885, is published usually five times a week.

The West Indian Crusader, founded in 1934, is a bi-weekly publication.

Chapter 6: Bibliography

St. Lucia, by H. H. BREEN (1844).

Handbook for St. Lucia, by E. C. GARRAWAY (1902). Revision by Palmer in 1921.

The following books have sections relating to the Government of St. Lucia:

History of the British Colonies in the West Indies, by BRYAN EDWARDS 3 vols. (1793).

Chronological History of the West Indies, by Capt. THOMAS SOUTHEY, R.N. 3 vols. (1827).

The West Indies: The Natural and Physical History of the Windward and Leeward Colonies, by Sir A. HALLIDAY (London: John Parker, 1937).

The English in the West Indies, by J. A. FROUDE (1888).

A Historical Geography of the British Colonies. Vol. II: The West Indies, by C. P. LUCAS, C.B. (1905).

West Indian Histories, Book III: Story of the West Indian Colonies, by EDWARD W. DANIEL, B.A.

The Year Book of the British West Indies.

The Pocket Guide to the West Indies, by Sir ALGERNON ASPINALL.

Geography of the West Indies and Adjacent Islands, by J. O. CUTTER-RIDGE, F.R.G.S. (1937).

The West India Royal Commission Report, Cmd. 6656.

COLONIAL GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS, 1948

An Investigation of Credit Facilities for Small Cultivators in the Windward Islands, by E. L. JACK. Obtainable free from the Government of St. Lucia.

Report on the Causes and Circumstances of the Fire in Castries, St. Lucia, on the 19th and 20th June, 1948, by Mr. Justice A. V. CRANE.

Report of the Enquiry held into the St. Lucia Police Force, July, 1948, by Brigadier A. S. MAVROGORDATO.

The Revised Sketch Development Plan—1946-1956—St. Lucia.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

WAGES AND HOURS OF WORK

Agriculture

Men	2s. per day plus 1s. per day cost-of-living bonus	8-hr. day
Women	1s. 7d. per day plus 8d. per day cost-of-living bonus.	

Young Persons

Male (16-19 yrs.)	2s. per day (inclusive of bonus)
Female (,,)	1s. 7d. " " (" " ")
Male (14-15 yrs.)	1s. 7d. " " (" " ")
Female (,,)	1s. 3½d. " " (" " ")

Sugar estates (piecework):

Cane cutting	4s. 6d. per day.
Loading cane trucks	4s. 6d. per day.
Heading canes	4s. 6d. per day.

Skilled Workmen

Carpenters	From 12c. to 24c. per hr.	8-hr. day
Smiths	,, 10c. to 18c. " "	
Mechanics	,, 14c. to 24c. " "	
Painters	,, 9c. to 16c. " "	
Masons	,, 15c. to 25c. " "	
Bakers	,, 15s. 6d. to 28s. weekly	12-hr. day (average)
Printers (Commercial)	£2 to £3 " "	11-hr. day (average)
Compositors	8s. to 24s. " "	11-hr. day (average)

Pressmen 12s. (flat rate)

Printers (Government)		
Class I £150 × £10 to £200 per annum		8-hr. day
Class II £100 × £10 to £150 " "		"
Class III £80 × £5 to £100 " "		"
Class IV £60 × £5 to £80 " "		"
Apprentice £36 × £3 to £50 " "		"

Overtime in accordance with rates of pay.

Transport and Communications

Motor Drivers (Government)	From 16c. to 20c. per hr.	8-hr. day
,, " (Commercial)	Paid on commission basis from 3s. to 4s. in the £ weekly	12-hr. day (average)

Waterfront Workers

Dockmen	1s. 6d. per hour	Overtime 2s. 3d. per hour
Holdmen	1s. 8d. " "	" 2s. 6d. " "
Winchmen		
Guymen	2s. 2d. " "	" 3s. 3d. " "
Gangwaymen		
Tally Clerks	2s. 4d. " "	" 5s. " "

Telephone Workers

Foremen	6s. per day	8 hrs.
Linesman		
1st Class	4s. 8d. " "	"
2nd Class	4s. " "	"

Overtime rates 50 per cent above basic rates.

*Commerce**Shop Assistants:*

Male 58s. 2d. (minimum wage) to £8 per month. 41-56-hr. week.
 Female 43s. 8d. (minimum wage) to £6 per month. 41-56-hr. week.

*Public Services**Clerical Officers:*

Special Grade Clerk	£350 × £20 to £420 p.a.
First Class Clerk	£250 × £15 to £325 "
Second Class Clerk	£125 × £10 to £225 "
Third Class Clerk	£ 80 × £10 to £110 "
Clerk in Training	£60 "

Subordinate Officers:

Sub-Class I	£100 × £10 to £150 p.a.
Sub-Class II	£ 85 × £ 5 to £100 "
Sub-Class III	£ 65 × £ 5 to £ 85 "
Sub-Class IV	£ 45 × £ 3 to £ 60 "

Police Force

Sub-Inspector	£250 × £10 to £300 p.a.
Band Master	£200 × £10 to £250 "
Station Sergeant	£160 × £10 to £180 "
Sergeants	£130 × £ 6 to £160 "
Corporals	£120 × £ 5 to £130 "
Lance Corporals	£100 × £ 5 to £120 "
Constables	£ 90 × £ 5 to £110 "
Recruits	£60 p.a. for first six months £80 p.a. for second six months.

Rates of Cost-of-Living Bonus payable to Employees in Public Service

Salaries up to £60 p.a.	40 per cent
from £61 to £150 p.a.	30 " "
from £151 to £250 p.a.	20 " "
from £251 to £400 p.a.	10 " "

Domestic servants

Fed and lodged	10s. to 35s. per month	12-hr. day (average)
Not fed or lodged	20s. to 35s. per month	12-hr. day (average)

APPENDIX II

SUMMARY OF LABOUR LEGISLATION

Legislation dealing with Trade Unions

Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Ordinance, No. 4 of 1948.

Legislation dealing with the Employment of Women and Children

Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance, No. 22 of 1934.

Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance Operation Order, No. 49 of 1937.

Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 9 of 1939.

Employment of Children (Restriction) Ordinance, No. 28 of 1939.

Employment of Women Ordinance, No. 8 of 1946.

Legislation establishing Wage fixing Machinery

Labour (Minimum Wage) Ordinance, No. 5 of 1935.

Labour (Minimum Wage) (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 3 of 1937.

Labour (Minimum Wage) (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 6 of 1938.

Labour (Minimum Wage) (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 24 of 1941.

Labour (Coaling Industry) (Minimum Wage) Order, No. 63 of 1941.

Labour (Minimum Wage) (Agricultural Labourers) Ordinance, No. 64 of 1946.

Labour (Minimum Wage) (Agricultural Labourers) (Amendment) Order, No. 14 of 1947.

Legislation dealing with Arbitration

Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Ordinance, No. 15 of 1940.

Legislation dealing with Workmen's Compensation

Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, No. 7 of 1941.

Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 4 of 1942.

Workmen's Compensation Regulations, No. 58 of 1942.

Factory Legislation

Factories Ordinance, No. 8 of 1943.

Factories Regulations (S.R. & O.), No. 8 of 1948.

Steam Boilers Ordinance, No. 1 of 1932.

Masters and Servants Legislation

Employers and Servants Ordinance, No. 29 of 1938.

Employers and Servants (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 23 of 1941.

Recruiting of Workers Legislation

Recruiting of Workers Ordinance, No. 31 of 1939.

Recruiting of Workers (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 2 of 1941.

Recruiting of Workers (Regulations), No. 13 of 1942.

Recruiting of Workers (Amendment) Regulations, No. 81 of 1942.

Legislation affecting Hours of Work

Shop (Hours) Ordinance, No. 5 of 1941.

Shop Hours Order, No. 2 of 1942.

Shop Hours (Amendment) Order, No. 57 of 1942.
 Shop (Hours) Ordinance-Proclamation, No. 92 of 1941.

Other Legislation

Daily Labourer's Wages Payment Ordinance, No. 13 of 1924.
 Labour Ordinance, No. 14 of 1938.
 Labour (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 10 of 1943.
 Sugar Export Cess (Administration) Regulations, No. 1 of 1948.
 Sugar Export Cess Ordinance, 1947.
 Sugar Export Cess (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 1 of 1948.

APPENDIX III

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUE FOR THE PERIOD
 ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1947

Heads of Revenue	Estimate for 1947	Actual Revenue to 31st December, 1947	Revenue for 1946	Increase or Decrease
1. Customs: Import Duties	\$ 480,000	\$ 569,434	\$ 501,269	+\$ 68,165
Export Duties	72,000	65,990	53,760	+\$ 12,230
2. Port, Harbour, &c., Dues	16,800	12,768	11,165	+\$ 1,603
3. Excise	153,600	136,459	156,998	-\$ 20,539
4. Licences, &c.				
1. Spirits, &c.	23,318	22,886	20,971	+\$ 1,915
2. Trade duty on spirits	48,000	42,806	42,019	+\$ 787
6. Stamp duty: Various Revenue services	3,840	5,227	4,829	+\$ 398
7. Succession duty	4,800	9,202	4,910	+\$ 4,292
8. Fines and forfeitures of courts	5,760	6,302	6,154	+\$ 148
9. Revenue, seizures and penalties	288	101	235	-\$ 134
10. Cess on citrus prod.	288	115	322	-\$ 207
11. Income tax	158,400	154,594	132,485	+\$ 22,109
12. Rural house tax	4,800	4,104	4,044	+\$ 60
13. Entertainment tax	960	139	451	-\$ 312
14. Cess on bananas.	—	14	1	+\$ 13
15. Recruiting Agents	480	336	—	+\$ 336
16. War tax	—	—	—	—
5. Fees of Court or Office	46,426	39,384	39,245	+\$ 139
6. Post Office	122,688	75,226	182,750	-\$ 107,524
7. Telephone	10,272	9,514	10,351	-\$ 837
8. Rent of Government Property	6,240	2,088	3,989	-\$ 1,901
9. Interest	18,466	17,371	17,818	-\$ 447
10. Municipal and other loans	5,040	4,925	5,174	-\$ 249
11. Miscellaneous Receipts	18,288	33,086	11,606	+\$ 21,480
Total Ordinary Revenue	1,200,754	1,212,071	1,210,546	+\$ 1,525
12. Land Sales	1,920	4,786	1,939	+\$ 2,847
Total Local Revenue	1,202,674	1,216,857	1,212,485	+\$ 4,372
13. Parliamentary Grant	543,370	140,362	507,778	-\$ 367,416
TOTAL REVENUE	1,746,044	1,357,219	1,720,263	-\$ 363,044

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE
PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1947**

<i>Heads of Expenditure</i>	<i>Estimate for 1947</i>	<i>Actual Expenditure to 31st December, 1947</i>	<i>Expenditure for 1946</i>	<i>Increase or Decrease</i>
1. Charges on account of Public Debt	\$ 38,203	\$ 38,173	\$ 38,173	\$ —
2. Pensions and Gratuities	38,520	48,709	53,149	— 4,440
3. Governor	7,944	8,332	7,876	+ 456
3a. Legislature	6,720	5,945	6,690	— 745
4. Administration	68,789	65,616	42,146	+ 23,470
5. Agriculture and Forests	84,797	76,195	27,321	+ 48,874
6. Audit Department	9,096	8,432	6,018	+ 2,414
7. Charitable	—	—	16,368	— 16,368
8. Ecclesiastical	7,680	7,680	7,680	—
9. Education	126,470	121,743	98,702	+ 23,041
10. Labour Department	5,376	4,224	4,799	— 575
11. Lands and Survey Department	21,533	13,595	13,011	+ 584
12. Legal Departments	34,622	33,710	29,068	+ 4,642
13. Local Forces	3,000	3,000	3,000	—
14. Medical Department	141,475	145,608	118,627	+ 26,981
15. Miscellaneous Services	72,893	96,507	79,348	+ 17,159
16. Police	100,109	83,396	77,991	+ 5,405
17. Port and Marine Department	14,491	16,799	11,583	+ 5,216
18. Post Office	27,677	21,466	28,749	— 7,283
19. Prisons	22,963	25,089	19,364	+ 5,725
20. Public Works Department	26,558	21,187	16,408	+ 4,779
21. Public Works Recurrent	173,184	297,672	106,635	+ 191,037
22. Telephone Department	16,296	15,366	15,139	+ 227
23. Treasury, Customs and Inland Revenue	53,227	50,119	38,694	+ 11,425
24. War Services	—	—	129,921	— 129,921
25. Central Housing and Planning Authority	4,498	689	745	— 56
26. Post War Expenditure	91,435	169,586	—	+ 169,586
Total Ordinary Expenditure	1,197,557	1,378,838	997,205	+ 381,633
EXTRAORDINARY				
4a. Administration	480	941	684	+ 257
5a. Agriculture	1,690	1,219	—	+ 1,219
18a. Police Department	7,440	6,419	765	+ 5,654
20a. Public Works Department	78,768	37,439	102,306	— 64,867
22a. Telephone Department	—	3,274	73	+ 3,201
Total Local Expenditure	1,285,925	1,428,130	1,101,033	+ 327,097
27. Expenditure from Surplus Balance	210,240	—	—	—
28. Col. Development and Welfare Scheme	543,370	133,580	378,298	— 244,718
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,039,535	1,561,710	1,479,331	+ 82,379

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF THE COLONY AT THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1947

APPENDIX IV

	Liabilities	Assets
Special Funds:		
Savings Bank	\$ 368,947.98	Cash :
Public Officers Guarantee Fund	9,581.22	Treasurer
Baron Trust Fund	15,953.48	Sub-Accountants
Interest Baron Trust Fund	6.26	Barclay's Bank (P.C. & O.)
Landslide Relief (1938) Fund	23,964.18	Crown Agents
Savings Certificate	10,742.22	Post Office Account
Custodian of Enemy Property	2,296.90	Intercolonial Account, Grenada
Distressed Emigrants Fund	712.44	Advances
C.T.B. Electric Light Reserve Fund	11,344.77	Castries Town Board:
C.T.B. Building Fund	11,607.18	Castries Electric Lights Fund
Model Cottages Housing-Scheme	6,350.80	Towns and Villages:
Castries Water Works Reserve Fund	2,783.24	Canaries Village Fund
Dennery Water Works Reserve Fund	822.02	Dennery Village Fund
Soufrière Water Works Reserve Fund	634.66	Miton Village Fund
Police Reward Fund	1,162.76	Soufrière Town Fund
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	137,190.78	Vieux Fort Town Fund
St. Lucia Sugar Industry Special Fund	48,689.04	Investments:
	591,959.38	On Account of Savings Bank
		" " Baron Trust Fund
Deposits:		
Miscellaneous	116,523.54	270,827.70
Castries Town Board:		15,953.48
Castries Town Fund	245.12	
Drafts and Remittances Account:	25,015.44	
Towns and Villages:		23,964.18
Ause-la-Raye	437.94	Land Slide Relief (1938) Fund
Choiseul	117.86	" " Savings Certificates
Gros Islet	1,851.78	" " Custodian of Enemy Property
La Horie	697.82	" " Colony's Reserve Fund
	3,105.40	Joint Colonial Fund:
		Special Deposit Account for Sugar Fund
		Bank Deposits:
		On Account of C.T.B. Electric Lights Reserve Fund
Dominica	3,279.82	2,809.96
St. Vincent	2,303.56	" " C.T.B. Building Works Reserve Fund
Joint Colonial Fund	5,583.38	9,941.62
Surplus:	19,200.00	" " Castries Water Works Reserve Fund
Colony's Reserve Fund	460,000.00	828.56
General Revenue Balance Account:		" " Dennery Water Works Reserve Fund
Credit Balance at the 1st January, 1947	248,393.86	407.46
Deduct Deficit at 31st December, 1947 \$20,448,962.12		628.88
Depreciation of Securities \$3,853,202.18	243,325.90	13,615.92
		5,067.96
		\$1,222,700.22

APPENDIX V

INCOME TAX 1948: STATEMENT OF INDIVIDUALS
AND COMPANIES ASSESSED AT VARYING RATES

Income Group	No. of Assessments	Tax Yield
\$ 4.80— 480.00	Nil	\$ Nil
484.80— 960.00	279	1,185.00
964.80— 1,440.00	159	1,832.40
1,444.80— 1,920.00	80	2,146.92
1,924.80— 2,400.00	46	2,212.32
2,404.80— 2,880.00	21	1,749.48
2,884.80— 3,360.00	16	1,675.44
3,364.80— 3,840.00	18	2,561.52
3,844.80— 4,320.00	7	1,676.64
4,324.80— 4,800.00	6	1,672.80
4,804.80— 5,280.00	8	2,661.48
5,284.80— 6,720.00	14	10,573.44
6,724.80— 9,600.00	13	14,867.52
9,604.80— 12,000.00	5	10,446.92
12,004.80— 14,400.00	4	10,300.80
Over \$30,000	5	30,017.04
Companies	681	95,579.56
	44	82,314.36
TOTAL	725	\$177,893.88

Income tax rates vary on a sliding scale from 6d. in the pound on every pound of the first \$480.00 to 13s. 6d. in the pound on every pound above \$24,000.00. The tax upon the chargeable income of a company is charged at the rate of 6s. on every pound. The rates are contained in Section 23 of the Income Tax Ordinance, 1947, No. 8 of 1948, which came into operation on 1st January, 1948.

It is not possible to compare returns for 1941-45 with those for 1948 owing to revision of rates and scales. Figures for previous years are available in the *St. Lucia Annual Reports* for 1946 and 1947.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT FOR THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

1936-1945

Trade and Commerce Section
[Cmd. 7224]

THE Statistical Abstract for the British Commonwealth No. 69 continues the series, previously known as 'Statistical Abstract for the British Empire,' publication of which was suspended during the war. An introductory memorandum to each country (or group of countries) setting out briefly some of the salient facts relating to the economic situation of the territory has been included for the first time. As well as Tables of Trades for each part of the British Commonwealth, various total values are shown in a series of Summary Tables.

Roy. 8vo. vi + 237 pages
PRICE 4s. BY POST 4s. 3d.



Obtainable from
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE
*at the addresses on cover page 3 or
through any bookseller*

OVERSEA EDUCATION

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF
EDUCATIONAL EXPERIMENT
AND RESEARCH IN TROPICAL
AND SUBTROPICAL AREAS

EACH issue contains articles and notes on the fascinating educational problems which are being solved by British teachers in the tropics, with reviews of new publications.

Four pages of Illustrations are included in each number.

ONE SHILLING PER COPY (*by post 1s. 3d.*)
Annual Subscription 5s. including postage



Obtainable from
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE

*at the addresses on cover page 3 or
through any bookseller*



39015 07021 2017

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

ADEN	FIJI	NORTHERN
BAHAMAS	GAMBIA	RHODESIA
BARBADOS	GIBRALTAR	NYASALAND
BASUTOLAND	GILBERT AND	ST. HELENA
BECHUANALAND	ELLICE IS.	ST. LUCIA
PROTECTORATE	GOLD COAST	ST. VINCENT
BERMUDA	GRENADA	SARAWAK
BRITISH GUIANA	HONG KONG	SEYCHELLES
BR. HONDURAS	JAMAICA	SIERRA LEONE
BR. SOLOMON	KENYA	SINGAPORE
ISLANDS	LEEWARD IS.	SWAZILAND
BR. SOMALILAND	MAURITIUS	TONGA
BRUNEI	FEDERATION	TRINIDAD
CAYMAN ISLANDS	OF MALAYA	TURKS AND
CYPRUS	NEW HEBRIDES	CAICOS IS.
DOMINICA	NIGERIA	UGANDA
FALKLAND IS.	NORTH BORNEO	ZANZIBAR

A standing order for selected Reports or for the complete series will be accepted by any one of the Sales Offices of H.M. Stationery Office at the following addresses: York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 (Post Orders: P.O. Box 569, London, S.E.1); 132 Castle Street, Edinburgh, 2; 39 King Street, Manchester, 2; 2 Edmund Street, Birmingham, 3; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; Tower Lane, Bristol, 1; 80 Chichester Street, Belfast.

A deposit of £4 (four pounds) should accompany standing orders for the complete series.

ORDERS MAY ALSO BE PLACED THROUGH ANY BOOKSELLER

